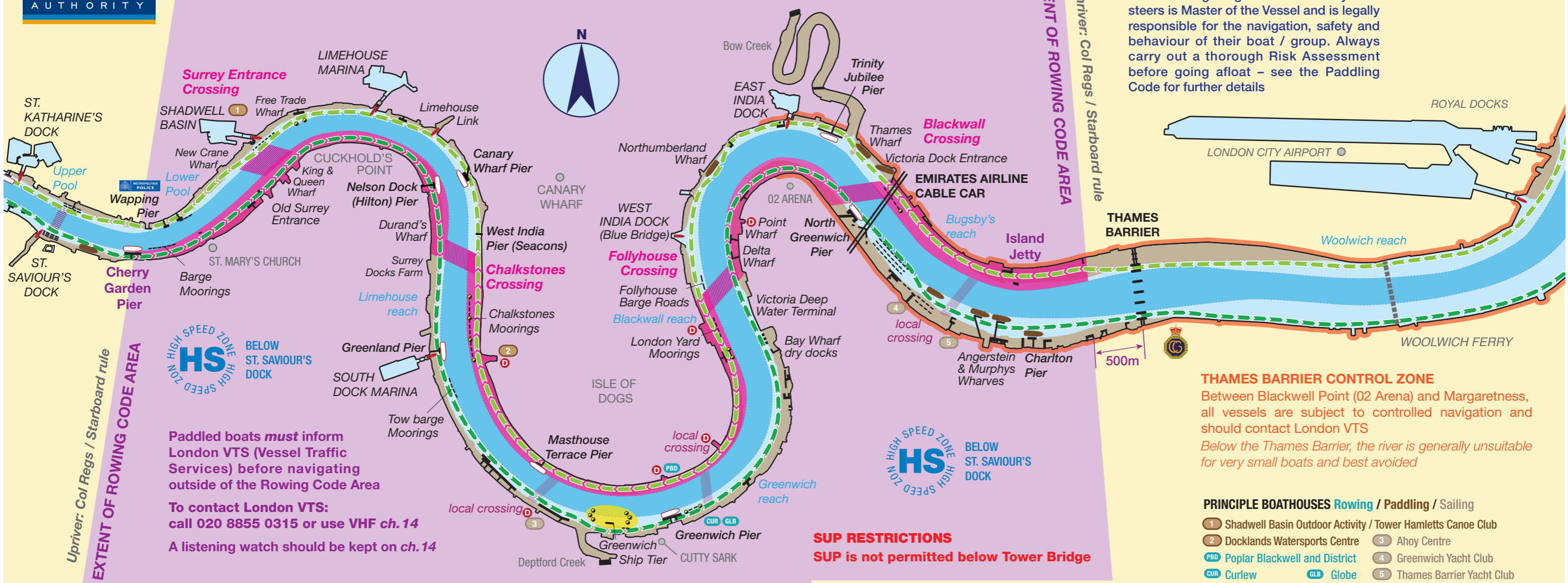


# BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TIDEWAY NAVIGATION LOWER

To accompany "Paddling on the Tideway – A Code of Practice for Paddling on the Tidal Thames" (Edition 1 2017)



All solo paddlers and group leaders must be fully conversant with the Paddling Code before navigating on the Tideway. The steers is Master of the Vessel and is legally responsible for the navigation, safety and behaviour of their boat / group. Always carry out a thorough Risk Assessment before going afloat – see the Paddling Code for further details



**THAMES BARRIER CONTROL ZONE**  
Between Blackwell Point (O2 Arena) and Margaretness, all vessels are subject to controlled navigation and should contact London VTS  
Below the Thames Barrier, the river is generally unsuitable for very small boats and best avoided

- PRINCIPLE BOATHOUSES Rowing / Paddling / Sailing**
- 1 Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity / Tower Hamlets Canoe Club
  - 2 Docklands Watersports Centre
  - 3 Ahoy Centre
  - 4 Greenwich Yacht Club
  - 5 Thames Barrier Yacht Club
  - PBD Poplar Blackwell and District
  - GLB Globe
  - CUR Curlew

**Paddled boats must inform London VTS (Vessel Traffic Services) before navigating outside of the Rowing Code Area**  
**To contact London VTS: call 020 8855 0315 or use VHF ch. 14**  
**A listening watch should be kept on ch. 14**

**SUP RESTRICTIONS**  
**SUP is not permitted below Tower Bridge**

## In the Lower ROWING CODE AREA between Cherry Garden Pier and Island Jetty

**Paddlers do not work the slacks** so when paddling in either direction, and regardless of the stream direction, they should navigate to the **starboard** side of the river. Paddlers should stay as close to the **starboard** or right-hand bank as is safe

If Paddlers choose to use the slack water alongside river walls then they must keep a good lookout for other, faster (rowing) boats

Where water levels and widths allow, always pass inside / under all piers as a tight group and ensure that the helm of any large vessel can see you before returning to the **starboard** bank

Overtaking boats do not have Right of Way but paddled boats are slow so do not impede faster (rowing) boats approaching from behind that want to overtake. Do not spread-out across the channel, especially in the **Inshore Zones**. Adjust your group shape accordingly to allow rowing boats sufficient room to pass safely on the inside / **to starboard**

Where a passenger service is alongside a pier, it is recommended that paddlers allow them to depart before proceeding

All boats in the **Fairway** have Right of Way. Always give way to large motor vessels and allow them space to use the **Fairway** / deep water. Never cross in front of boats in the **Fairway**

**Rowers must work the slacks** so be particularly aware of rowing boats which may be approaching from behind as well as in front, depending on the direction of the stream

Avoid Greenwich Ship Tier as this is a **Restricted Zone**

## Outside of the LOWER ROWING CODE AREA Col Regs / starboard side rule applies

Paddlers **must** inform London VTS before navigating outside of the Lower Rowing Code Area

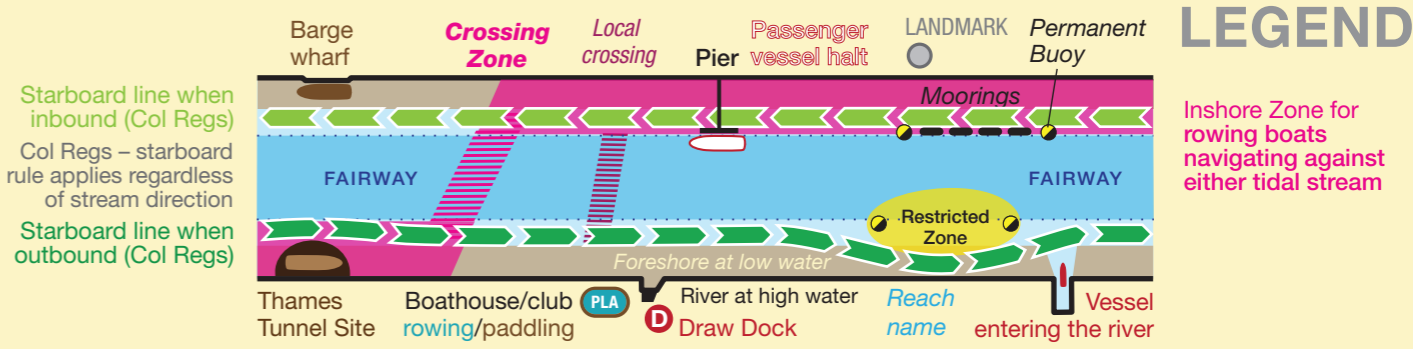
Large motor vessels have right of way and always give them space to use the **Fairway** / deep water

When paddling in either direction, and regardless of the stream direction, you should stay as close to the **Starboard** / right-hand bank as is safe

All boats in the **Fairway** have Right of Way and overtaking boats must give way. Never cross in front of a boat in the **Fairway**

## KEEP A GOOD LOOKOUT

Look every 3-5 strokes and always assume that others cannot see you – if in doubt, stop and shout



Do not scale. This diagram is for general guidance only and not intended to be definitive. Some 'Local Names' have been used. Please refer to The Paddling Code (First Edition 2017) and Admiralty Chart 3319 for detailed information. Original illustration drawn by neilpickford@mac.com for the Port of London Authority – www.pla.co.uk – PLA and Neil Pickford © 2017