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## Environmental News Bulletin



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## Ultra Low Emission Zone to be expanded across the whole of London

Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has recently announced that the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be expanded London-wide to tackle pollution, reduce congestion and address the climate emergency. The expanded ULEZ will come into force on **29 August 2023** and will cover all London boroughs, which are currently included in the Low Emission Zone (LEZ) boundary.



So far, London's ULEZ has been very successful in reducing pollution by 44% in central London and 22% in inner London. Now, according to the City Mayor, it is about time to expand it even further. Additionally, the expansion of the ULEZ will be accompanied by a £110m scrappage scheme, which will support those who are disabled, on lower incomes, or charities, small businesses and sole traders to switch to less polluting vehicles.

The current ULEZ standards for vehicles are:

- Euro 3 for motorcycles, mopeds, quads etc. (L category, widely available since 2007);
- Euro 4 (NOx) for petrol cars, vans, minibuses and other specialist vehicles (widely available since 2006);
- Euro 6 (NOx and PM) for diesel cars, vans and minibuses and other specialist vehicles (widely available since 2006).



The low emission zone (LEZ) will continue to operate in its current form for heavy vehicles.

According to the Mayor's office, the expansion of London's ULEZ will save 27,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions in outer London. Additionally, the expansion is expected to make further progress to reduce air pollution, by reducing nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions from cars and vans in outer London by 10 and 7 per cent respectively and reducing PM2.5 car exhaust emissions in outer London by nearly 16 per cent, benefitting five million outer London residents.

### ULEZ:

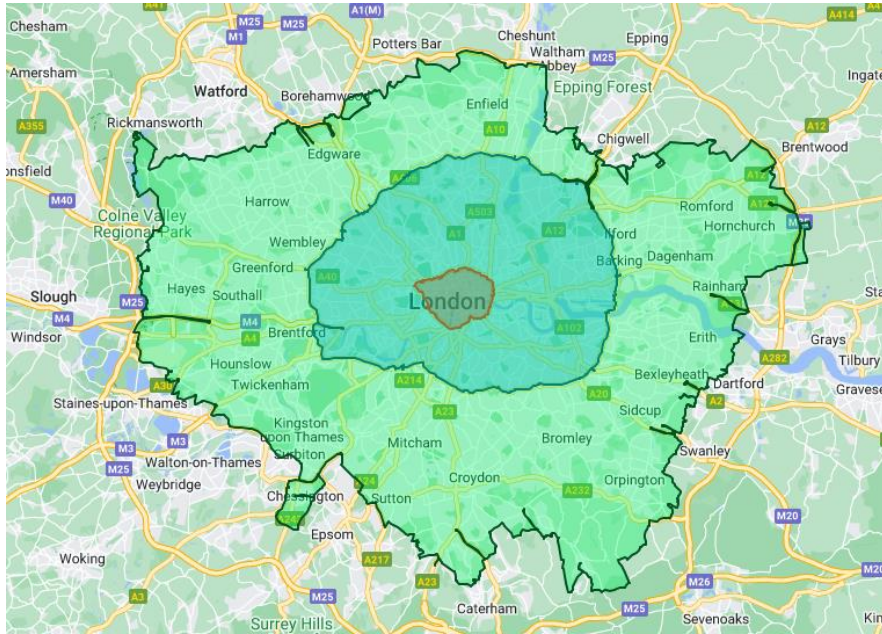
Operates 24 hours a day, midnight to midnight, every day of the year, except Christmas Day (25 December)

### Charges

For vehicles that do not meet ULEX Emissions standards, and are not exempt the charge will be £12.50 for cars, motorcycles, vans and specialist vehicles (up to and including 3.5 tonnes) and minibuses (up to and including 5 tonnes)

Visit [www.Tfl.gov.uk](http://www.Tfl.gov.uk) for more details regarding ULEZ including discounts and exemptions, auto pay, penalties, and the new scrappage scheme.

The map below shows the expansion of the ULEZ boundary that reaches the M25.



## Poole harbour oil spill as clean-up continues

Environmental activists, biodiversity experts, politicians and nature lovers are demanding answers over an oil leak in Poole harbour, a site internationally recognised for its ecological importance. Nearly 200 barrels of reservoir fluid – a brine mixture that is about 15% oil – leaked into the waters of Owers Bay on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March from a pipeline operated by the energy company Perenco.

Oil slicks were reported across Poole harbour, which is the largest natural harbour in Europe and one of the most heavily protected areas in the UK. The RSPB has already recorded sightings of oiled birds in the harbour.

Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC), the harbour regulator responsible for leading the cleanup response, said on Monday that the picture was improving, with aerial footage suggesting a 60-70% reduction in oil sightings on the water.



## Environment and sustainability concerns

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### How to raise environment and sustainability concerns

Network Rail has environmental and sustainability obligations in over 200 pieces of UK legislation. It also has many strategic goals that go beyond basic compliance. The means by which it complies with these obligations are bound in standards, processes, guidance, and other controls.

Reporting issues related to health and safety concerns is a well-established process across Network Rail and its supply chain-but what about environment and sustainability concerns? They share many of the same processes and systems for reporting.

### What's concerning you?

Activities or events that impact Network Rail's legal obligations or strategic goals as regards environment and sustainability are a concern for the business. Some environment and sustainability concerns may be familiar to you, whilst others you may not have thought about reporting before:

- poor air quality at your work site;
- waste management behaviour and facilities e.g. lack/misuse of recycling facilities;
- concerns about noise levels;
- concerns about inclusivity in a team;
- absence of/ incomplete mandatory environment and sustainability PACE products for a major project;
- damage/destruction of habitat of a protected species;
- poor material management e.g. storing of hazardous material inappropriately.

### Who can you tell?

Your supervisor or your line manager should listen to all and any concerns you may have.

If your concerns are about environmental and sustainability management on a site, your Environment and Sustainability team should be made aware. As with safety close calls & incidents, environmental incidents are raised in the same manner.

If you believe your concerns are not being actioned, or you are not receiving feedback about concerns you have raised, you can confidentially use Speak Out.

Alternatively, you can report your environmental or sustainability concern to CIRAS - an independent confidential reporting services covering the whole rail sector.

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# Tool Box Talk Environment Issued by Network Rail

## Working around trees and hedgerows

### What?

- trees and hedgerows are an important part of the environment and the countryside
- they provide a vitally important habitat for wildlife and many trees and hedgerows are protected by legislation enforced by the local authority
- they provide shelter and pathways for insects, amphibians, mammals and birds.

### Why?

**avoid environmental harm and prosecution:** during certain times of the year trees and hedgerows may contain nesting birds. Nesting birds are protected by law against disturbance

**avoid prosecution:** it is illegal to cut down or wilfully damage trees protected by law under a Tree Preservation Order, trees in a conservation area or to pull up certain countryside hedges except with the consent of the local planning authority

**reduce safety risk:** damaged trees may become unstable and potential hazards and can kill or injure people or animals. Trees can be damaged by compaction of roots and other damage to the root system, by pollution and through impact by machines.

### Questions

1. How can trees and hedgerows be protected on this site?
2. What care should be taken when moving plant or storing and using fuels and other potential pollutants on site?
3. What must be done if any birds' nests are found on site?

Do?	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• check with a line manager before felling any trees or removing any hedgerows to ensure permission has been obtained</li><li>• only clear vegetation as instructed by a line manager</li><li>• check for nesting birds and if any are found stop work and contact a line manager immediately</li><li>• ask a line manager what protection is required to trees and hedgerows</li><li>• check with a line manager before excavating near to trees and hedgerows</li><li>• ensure plant and machinery are kept out of any excluded areas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• undertake tree felling or hedgerow clearance during the bird nesting season</li><li>• undertake any works to, or near to, trees without authorisation from a line manager</li><li>• track vehicles or plant over tree protection areas</li><li>• store materials, especially fuels and oils under or near trees</li></ul>

## Fuel and oil – Advice and Guidance

### What?

poor storage, lack of care during refuelling, vandalism and poorly maintained plant can all result in a spillage of fuel or oil.

### Why?

avoid environmental harm: even a small spillage of oil or fuel can cause damage to the environment and harm plants, animals, fish, and humans ☒ avoid prosecution: a spillage can result in a prosecution, a fine, and damage a company's reputation ☒ reduce costs: spillages are likely to lead to clean up costs, which can be significant, often several times greater than the fine.



### Questions

1. How far away from drains or watercourses should oils be stored?
2. What is the minimum capacity of a bund?
3. What should be done if there is a spillage?

### Do

- ensure bulk fuel and oil storage tanks are bunded and that the bund has a capacity of 110 per cent of the tank
- store all containers of oil and fuel in a secure, bunded area
- regularly check tanks, containers and bunds for damage and leaks
- supervise all fuel and oil deliveries
- lock containers and tanks when not in use
- ensure a spill kit is provided adjacent to fuel storage and refuelling areas
- place a drip tray or absorbent mat under all static plant and mobile plant during fuelling
- clear up all minor spillages immediately
- use a funnel when refuelling small plant
- use an automatic shut off or pistol grip delivery system when refuelling plant
- seek advice from a line manager before disposing of waste fuel or oil, or contaminated spill granules or absorbent mats
- liaise with a line manager to organise removal of contaminated water from bunds and trays by an appropriate contractor.

### Don't

- pour waste fuel and oil down drains
- wash fuel and oil spillages down drains
- store fuel and oil, or carry out refuelling, within 10 m of a watercourse or drain
- allow drip trays or bunds to overflow
- locate fuel and oil tanks/storage area near to vehicle routes
- leave a tank to fill unsupervised.

