Docklands

Docklands is the semi-official name for an area in the east of London, comprising parts of several boroughs (Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Newham) in Greater London. The eponymous docks were formerly part of the Port of London, at one time the world’s largest port. They have now been redeveloped principally for commercial and residential use. The name London Docklands was used for the first time in a government report on redevelopment plans in 1971 but has since become virtually universally adopted. With one exception the area is entirely north of the River Thames.

London Docklands Development Corporation

The London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) was a quango set up in 1981 to regenerate the Docklands area of east London. It was responsible for an area of 8.5 square miles (22 km²) in the London Boroughs of Newham, Tower Hamlets and Southwark. It was established by the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Heseltine. It was financed by a grant from central government and from the proceeds from the sale of land for development. The LDDC began a staged withdrawal in 1994 and was formally wound up in 1998. Under a process called "dedesignation" the powers it held were handed back to the London Boroughs.

The London Docklands Development Corporation set itself the following objectives:

a) To rapidly improve the image of Docklands, not only by undertaking programmes of physical works throughout the area, but also by creating confidence in the continuing improvements to come;
b) To use its financial resources primarily as a level to attract private investment, given that the amount of public money available was small in relation to the size of the task;
c) To acquire as much derelict and vacant public sector land as resources permitted, in order to undertake the necessary reclamation, servicing and site assembly;
d) To bring the roads and public transport network up to the standard of other parts of London;
e) To bring about significant improvements in choice and quality of housing, community amenities, employment and training, without undertaking such work directly.

Port of London and the Port of London Authority (PLA)

Technically the Port of London consists of all the tidal portion of the River Thames from Margate and Clacton-on-Sea through to Teddington, a total of around 95 miles (150km). The port is governed by the Port of London Authority. The Port currently handles 50 million tonnes of cargo each year and 12,500 commercial ships, which use 73 operational wharves. This represents around 10% of the UK commercial shipping trade, and contributes over 35,000 jobs and £8.5 billion to the UK’s economy.

Containerisation

Containerisation is a system of intermodal cargo transport using standard ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) containers that can be loaded on container ships, railway wagons, and lorries. It is an important element of the "logistics revolution" that changed freight handling in the 20th century. Containerisation revolutionised cargo shipping. Today, approximately 90% of cargo moves by containers stacked on transport ships. Over 200 million containers per year are now moved between those ports.

Enterprise Zone

Former special zone introduced in the UK in 1980 and designated by government to encourage industrial and commercial activity, usually in economically-depressed areas such as the Isle of Dogs in London’s Docklands area. Investment was attracted by means of tax reduction and other financial incentives. Enterprise zones no longer exist, but assisted areas and intermediate areas survive.

Crossrail

Crossrail is a future project to build a new east-west railway connection under central London, with one connection to the west and two to the east. Unlike the existing London Underground, they would be built to heavy rail rather than light rail standards; they would connect to existing mainlines. Services would consist of a local metro, similar to the existing north-south Thameslink route. It is intended
that Crossrail will be fully integrated with the other London transport systems.

The City

The City of London, often referred to as just the City or as the Square Mile forms the historic and financial centre of Greater London. Although the City was for centuries synonymous with London, the latter term is now reserved for the large conurbation surrounding it. The City has a population of about 7,000. The City is administered by the Corporation of London, headed by the Lord Mayor of London (confusingly, this post is distinct from but subordinate to the Mayor of London) It also has its own independent police force, the City of London Police.

Brownfield Land

In town planning, brownfield land is an area of land previously used or built upon, as opposed to greenfield land which has never been built upon. In some cases it may be land (such as the Greenwich Peninsula) that was previously used by heavy industry and therefore may be contaminated by hazardous waste or pollution. Generally, designated brownfield sites exist in a town’s industrial section, in abandoned factories or other previously high-polluting buildings. The redevelopment of these brownfield sites is an important part of new urbanism. For historical reasons, many brownfield sites are located close to important thoroughfares such as roads and rivers; their reclamation can therefore be a major asset to a city.