

Milly Southworth

From: Trisha Hewitt <trisha.hewitt@tamarcrossings.org.uk>
Sent: 24 February 2025 11:30
To: Trisha Hewitt
Subject: comms for the Torpoint ferry LYNHER refit

Good morning

Torpoint ferry LYNHER is currently scheduled to be taken out of service on 24 March in preparation for being towed to Falmouth for its five-yearly refit. Weather permitting the ferry will be towed to A&P Falmouth's dry dock facilities on 28 March. However prior to this date the ferry will be out of service from 4 to 12 March for some preliminary refit works.

Please find attached a copy of a briefing note about the forthcoming refit , together with FAQ's and a copy of the first press release about the process for information. We will be adding the FAQ's and press release to the website later today, and sending out to the media.

There is also a short film about refits which we produced last year : <https://youtu.be/Kha3Qv8HZzQ>

Information about the LYNHER refit will be provided prior to and during the refit process. This will include regular updates on the Tamar Crossings website, press releases, and social media posts.

Kind regards

Trisha

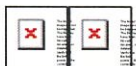
Trisha Hewitt

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Briefing note for LYNHER 2025 refit

24 February 2025

Torpoint Ferry LYNHER is currently scheduled to be taken out of service on 24 March in preparation for being towed to Falmouth for its five-yearly refit. Weather permitting the ferry will be towed to A&P Falmouth's dry dock facilities on 28 March.

Prior to this date the ferry will be out of service from 4 to 12 March for some preliminary refit works.

You can watch a short film about ferry refits [here](#) :

LYNHER is one of three chain ferries operated by Tamar Crossings which provide a vital 24 hour ferry service in all weathers for up to 8,000 vehicles a day, and around 1,500 pedestrians each day, 365 days a year.

Achieving this requires a significant planned maintenance programme. While the majority of maintenance is carried out while the vessels are afloat or during off-peak periods while an individual vessel is not on scheduled service, some maintenance activities have to be carried out during refits in dry dock conditions.

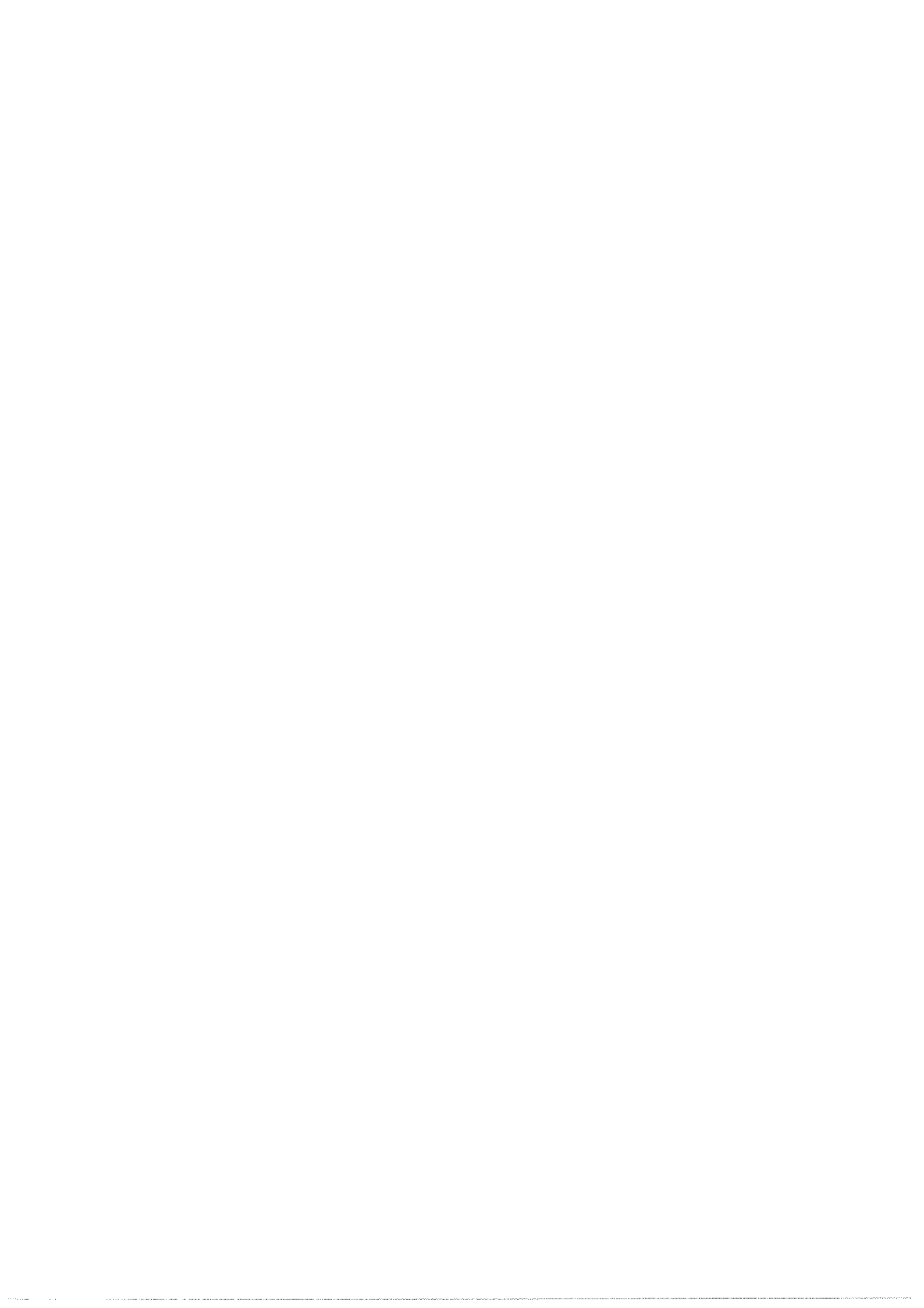
Each of the three ferries undergoes a full refit every five years. The refit of PLYM took place in 2023 and TAMAR in 2024, with the refit of LYNHER this year the final one in the current cycle.

The refits also give Lloyds Register and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) the opportunity to carry out their five-yearly dry-docked inspections which ensure that the ferries are in a good condition, and that they are safe to operate.

The ferries can only be towed in relatively calm sea states and wind conditions, so adverse weather can impact on the actual dates of the towing operations in both directions.

Work will start on removing the chains from the ferry after 9.30 am on 24 March with the ferry then due to be towed (weather permitting) to Falmouth on 28 March. This journey will take up to six hours.

The refit is scheduled to take up to eight weeks to complete which means the ferry is expected to be back in service by the end of May. We will be working closely with A&P to ensure that the works are completed on schedule and the ferry is back in service as quickly as possible.



Once the ferry has returned to Torpoint, the towing gear needs to be removed and the ferry put back on its chains and prepared for service which takes a few days to complete.

LYNHER's refit will include a number of key elements, including:

- A mandatory dry docking to allow a survey of the underwater hull to ensure the material state is sufficient to safely last a further five years. This is a statutory requirement and satisfactory completion is required to allow the issue of a Chain Ferry Certificate by the regulatory authority, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
- Replacing systems and equipment that are becoming obsolete or have reached end of life, including chainwheel drive couplings and bearings together with propulsion motor electronic drive components.
- Repainting the vessel both above and below the waterline.

During the refit period the service will be provided by the two remaining ferries, with a ferry leaving each side of the river every 15 minutes (on the hour and 15, 30 and 45 minutes past the hour), and the normal single ferry, half hourly, night service from 2200 to 06.30.

Information about the refit will be provided prior to and during the refit process. This will include updates to stakeholders, press releases, social media posts and mini videos.

Ends



Preparations well underway for refit of Torpoint ferry LYNHER

24 February 2025

Preparations for the planned refit of the Torpoint ferry LYNHER are now well underway, with the ferry currently due to be taken out of service on Monday 24 March in preparation for being towed to Falmouth.

Prior to this date the ferry will be out of service from 4 to 12 March for some preliminary refit works.

You can watch a short film about ferry refits [here](#) :

LYNHER is one of three chain ferries operated by Tamar Crossings which provide a vital 24-hour ferry service in all weathers for up to 8,000 vehicles and around 1,500 pedestrians each day, 365 days a year.

Achieving this requires a significant planned maintenance programme. Whilst the majority of maintenance is carried out while the vessels are afloat or during off-peak periods when an individual vessel is not in scheduled service. Major maintenance activities and equipment upgrades have to be carried out during refits in dry dock conditions.

"The ferries can only be towed in relatively calm sea states and wind conditions" explained Andrew Vallance, Interim General Manager for Tamar Crossings. **"This means that adverse weather can, and has in the past, significantly impacted on the actual dates of the towing operations in both directions."**

"We are obviously hopeful that the tow will be able to go ahead on schedule. If, however, the date has to be changed at short notice we will provide information through our website, social media and other means. We will also be publishing regular updates on the progress of the refit on our website."

The refit of PLYM took place in 2023 and TAMAR in 2024, with the refit of LYNHER this year the final one in the current cycle.

The refit is scheduled to take up to eight weeks to complete, with the ferry due to return to service by the end of May.

The refits also allow the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Lloyds Register the opportunity to carry out their five-yearly dry-dock inspections which

are aimed at ensuring that the ferries are in compliance, a good material condition, and that they are safe to operate.

Ends

Notes to editors

The Torpoint ferry is the UK's busiest inland waterway ferry crossing.

The Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry are jointly owned by Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council, with the operation of the service overseen by a governing Committee comprising five councillors from each of the parent authorities.

The two crossings are operated together as a single business – Tamar Crossings. Tamar Crossings does not receive any financial subsidy from either of the two councils or from Central Government. This means that, unlike some crossings in other parts of the country, the service is entirely self-financed through the tolls charged which pay for the operation, maintenance and improvement of both crossings. Toll charges remain amongst the lowest for a major estuarial crossing in the UK.

LYNHER 2025 refit FAQ's

Why do the ferries have to undergo a refit ?

The ferries provide a vital 24 hour chain ferry service in all weathers for up to 8,000 vehicles a day, including emergency vehicles, and around 1,500 pedestrians each day, 365 days a year. Achieving this requires a significant planned maintenance programme. While the majority of maintenance is carried out while the vessels are afloat or during off peak periods when an individual vessel is not on scheduled service, some maintenance activities have to be carried out during refits in dry dock conditions. The refits are essential to maximise the life of the ferries and ensure that we continue to provide a safe and reliable service.

How often do refits take place?

Each of the three ferries undergoes a full refit every five years. The refit of PLYM took place in 2023 and TAMAR in 2024, with the refit of LYNHER this year the final one in the current cycle.

What work is carried out during a refit?

LYNHER'S REFIT will include a number of key elements, including

- A mandatory dry docking to allow a survey of the underwater hull to ensure the material state is sufficient to safely last a further five years. This is a statutory requirement and satisfactory completion is required to allow the issue of a Chain Ferry Certificate by the regulatory authority, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
- Replacing systems and equipment that are becoming obsolete or have reached end of life, including chainwheel drive couplings and bearings together with propulsion motor electronic drive components.
- Repainting the vessel both above and below the waterline.

Who is carrying out the refit?

The refit is being carried out by A&P at their dry dock facilities in Falmouth.

How long does the refit take ?

The refit usually takes up to eight weeks to complete. We will be working closely with A&P to ensure that the works are completed on schedule and the ferry is back in service as quickly as possible.

Why do the ferries have to be sent away for the refit

While the majority of maintenance is carried out while the vessels are afloat or during off-peak periods when an individual vessel is not on scheduled service, some maintenance activities and inspections have to be carried out during refits in dry dock conditions.

How long does it take for the ferry to travel to Falmouth?

The ferry has to be towed 44 nautical miles from Torpoint to Falmouth. This journey usually takes around six hours to complete.

Why does the weather affect the date of the refit ?

The ferries can only be towed in relatively calm sea states and wind conditions, so adverse weather can impact on the actual dates of the towing operations in both directions.

How will you provide a service during the refit?

During the refit period the service will be provided by the two remaining ferries, with a ferry leaving each side of the river every 15 minutes (on the hour and 15, 30 and 45 minutes past the hour), and the normal single ferry, half hourly, night service from 2200 to 06.30.

Will the ferry go back into service as soon as it returns to Torpoint?

Once the ferry has returned to Torpoint, the towing gear needs to be removed and the ferry put back on its chains and prepared for service which takes a few days to complete.