

Individuals or groups may follow the Match, capacity permitting, aboard the following passenger craft:

To follow the Match aboard a authentic traditional Thames Sailing Barge telephone [Topsail Charters](http://www.topsailcharters.com) on 01621 837567

To follow the Match aboard an [historic Pilot Boat](http://www.historicpilotboat.com) telephone 01634 301910

To follow the Match aboard the historic coal fired [Steam Tug Portwey](http://www.steamtugportwey.com) telephone 07949 461533

To view the Match from the land, vantage points ashore to the north of the Thames are detailed below:

Barges preparing for the start (7.30 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.) should be visible from the north shore of the Thames at Coalhouse Fort, East Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8PB.

Directions by road: From junction 30 on the M25 travel East (towards Southend) along the A13 to the A128 Orsett Cock roundabout. ..Take the third exit along the A1013. Follow the signs for East Tilbury. ..After approximately 1 mile, turn RIGHT into BUCKINGHAM HILL ROAD and follow the brown tourist signs to Coalhouse Fort and East Tilbury. ..At the southern end of East Tilbury village you will enter the COALHOUSE FORT car park, from which it is a short walk to the riverside. ..PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY THROUGH THE VILLAGE .

The barges will pass by later in the day as they race back to the finish. Timings are entirely weather conditions dependent and cannot be guaranteed, but is envisaged to be between 11.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

The competing barges will sail east from the start line and will be readily seen from the sea wall running much of the length of Canvey Island's south shore from shortly after the start until all have passed by. This will again be a vantage point as the barges head back up river between around 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m., though again timings are entirely weather conditions dependent and cannot be guaranteed.

Another north shore vantage point is at Grays waterfront in the vicinity of The Wharf public house at the river end of Wharf Road South, Grays, RM17 5YX, where competitors will pass heading west towards the finish during early to mid-afternoon, weather conditions dependent, and a little later past The Royal Hotel, London Road, Purfleet, RM16 1QA.

The finish will be off Coldharbour Point where it is passed by the London Outer Orbital Path with access via Coldharbour Lane off the A13 at Rainham, Essex. Timings for the finish are even more unpredictable than those earlier in the Match, but it is expected that competitors will finish between 1.30 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

To view the Match from the land, vantage points ashore to the south of the Thames are detailed below:

Many of the competing barges will lie overnight off Gravesend before departing early, around 7.00 a.m. on Saturday 13th for the start downriver at Mucking Bight. Best view of the overnight berth and the morning departures will be from the gardens near the St Andrew's Riverside Mission Church, Terrace Pier Road and the Town Pier by The Three Daws public house, Gravesend, DA11 0BJ.

Gravesend Promenade, DA12 2BS, is also an ideal vantage point to see the barges making their way to the start around 7.00 a.m. and also to view the returning barges on the way back upriver to the finish at Erith. The returning barges would be expected to pass Gravesend between 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. though timings are entirely weather conditions dependent and cannot be guaranteed.

A little further towards the finish the Greenhithe Riverside Walk offers good views over the narrowing river, with vantage points at Sara Crescent, Greenhithe, DA9 9AY, and from the path below Ingress Park. From here you can enjoy a clear view from Broadness Point (Swanscombe) to well up Long Reach above the Dartford Bridge towards Crayfordness. Street parking in the village is limited, but the car park in Eagles Road, DA9 9QZ, is free at the weekends and only a short walk from the river.

The finish line at Erith will be between the Town Pier, by Morrison's Superstore, (previously Erith Deep Wharf) and Coldharbour Point on the north shore. Access to the public Town Pier is free and there is adjacent parking and disabled access. The barges are expected to be finishing between 1.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. before dropping down river to their overnight anchorage.

All timings are approximate and entirely dependent on weather conditions and cannot be guaranteed.