

News Release

071 512 3000

**London Docklands
Development Corporation**
Thames Quay
191 Marsh Wall
London E14 9TJ
Telex 894041 LDDC G
Fax No. 071 512 0777

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LIMEHOUSE LINK OPENS TO TRAFFIC ON 17TH MAY 1993

**Secretary of State to open new road
marking completion of the Docklands highways**

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

**Monday, 17 May 1993
2.00pm for 3.00pm**

The 1.8km Limehouse Link, the new dual carriageway built to improve access to London Docklands, will be opened by the Rt. Hon. Michael Howard, Q.C., M.P., Secretary of State for the Environment, on Monday, 17 May 1993.

Michael Howard will also open the East India Dock Link (westbound), a 350 metre tunnel connecting the A13 with Aspen Way and the Preston's Road Flyover. The ceremony will mark the completion of the £650 million Docklands highways network, a series of new and improved roads planned, designed, and built by the London Docklands Development Corporation in just over seven years.

London Docklands Development Corporation Chairman, Michael Pickard, said: "The opening of the Limehouse Link and East India Dock Link, marking completion of the Docklands highways will be a major psychological boost to confidence in London Docklands and provide the final proof, for the doubters, that the area is one of the most accessible in the capital. From 17 May the drivetime between Tower Bridge and London City Airport will reduce to 15 minutes, with shorter journey times for everyone who lives and works in London Docklands."

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At the western end of the network the £255 million Limehouse Link has been built under the residential area of Limehouse, connecting the City, from Tower Bridge, with the Isle of Dogs at Westferry Road, and with Aspen Way at North Quay. Designed by Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners the contract to build the Limehouse Link was awarded to Balfour Beatty AMEC Joint Venture in September 1989 with construction commencing in November 1989. The section to Westferry Road has been completed on schedule, and to North Quay five and a half months ahead of time.

Edmund Nuttall Limited commenced construction of the Mott MacDonald designed East India Dock Link in November 1990 as part of a £35 million contract which also included the Preston's Road Flyover and adjoining surface roads (Aspen Way east). Traffic will have to wait until 1996 to travel east in the tunnel, onto the A13 East India Dock Road, for completion of major works by the Department of Transport west of Canning Flyover.

Notes to Editors

1. Media are invited to attend the opening ceremony at the Limehouse Link on 17 May 1993.

Entry will be by invitation only. To obtain a formal invitation contact the LDDC Press Office on Tel: 071 512 0444

You are requested to arrive at Canary Wharf by car or by Docklands Light Railway, where coach transport to the opening ceremony will be available. Full instructions will accompany your invitation.

2. To facilitate television and radio coverage only, filming and interview facilities will be available at the Limehouse Link on Thursday, 13 May 1993. Senior LDDC and Balfour Beatty AMEC Joint Venture representatives will be available for interview on request.

Please contact the LDDC Press Office if you wish to attend:
071 512 0444 during office hours
071 512 3000 after hours.