

**PLANNING ACT 2008** 

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009

PROPOSED PORT TERMINAL AT FORMER TILBURY POWER STATION

# **TILBURY2**

STATUTORY NATURE CONSERVATION DESIGNATION INFORMATION

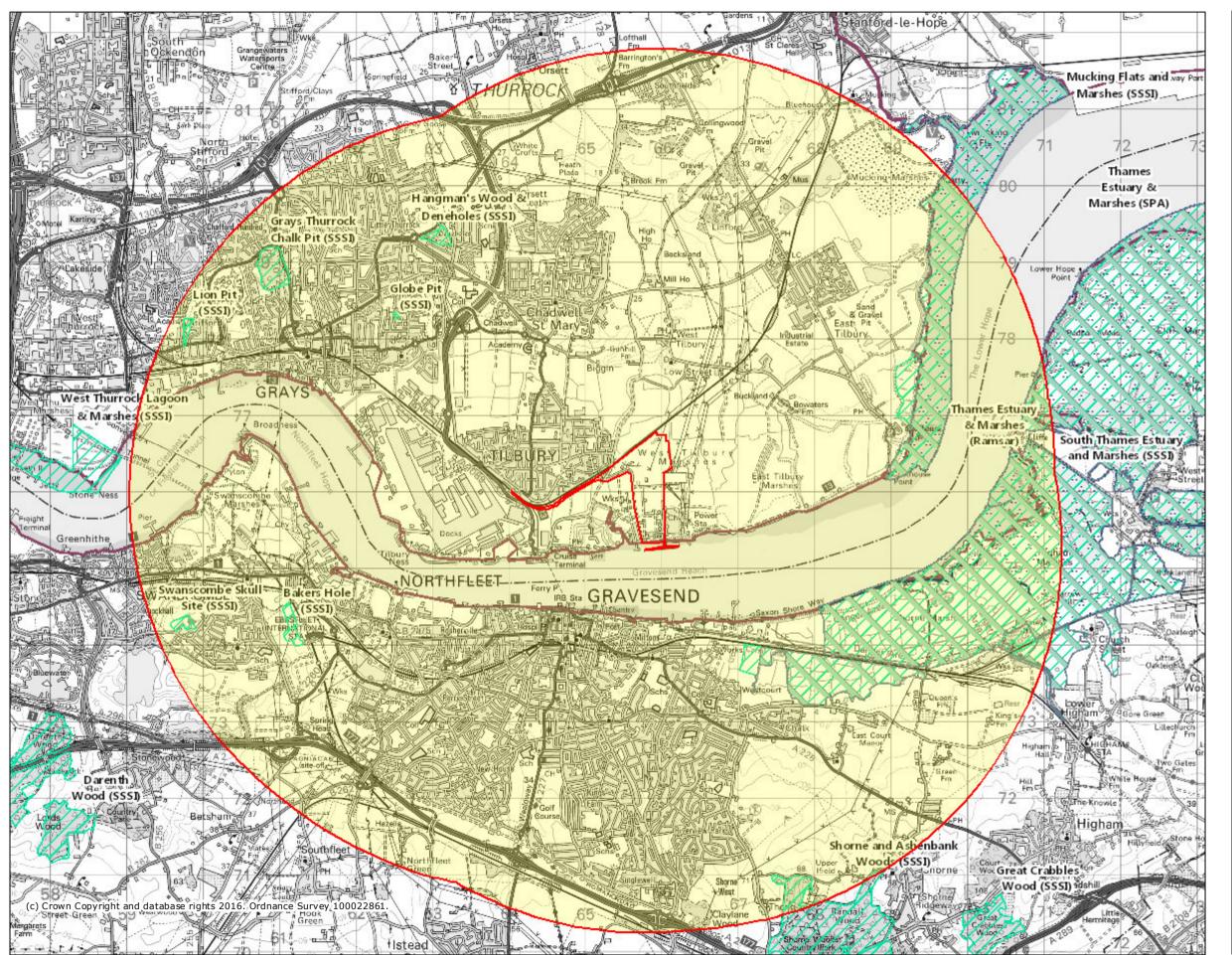
**DOCUMENT REF: APPENDIX 10.C** 







## **Tilbury Power Station: statutory designations**



## Legend

Ramsar Sites (England)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)

Special Areas of Conservation (England)

Special Protection Areas (England)

Projection = OSGB36

xmin = 556100

ymin = 170000

xmax = 574500ymax = 182200

Map produced by MAGIC on 21 December, 2016.

Copyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be reproduced without their permission. Some information in MAGIC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation. Please refer to the metadata for details as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stage.

#### 12/21/2016

Site Check Report Report generated on Wed Dec 21 2016

You selected the location: Centroid Grid Ref: TQ651760

The following features have been found in your search area:

#### Ramsar Sites (England)

Name THAMES ESTUARY & MARSHES

 Reference
 UK11069

 Hectares
 5553.59

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England) - points

Name Baker's Hole SSSI

Reference 1000259

Natural England ContactGODFREY - ROSEMARYNatural England Phone Number0845 600 3078

 Natural England Phone Number
 0845 600

 Hectares
 6.89

 Citation
 1001611

Hyperlink http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1001611

 Name
 Lion Pit SSSI

 Reference
 1001703

Natural England ContactKEELING - CHRISNatural England Phone Number0845 600 3078

 Hectares
 2.42

 Citation
 1004015

 Hyperlink
 <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1004015">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1004015</a>

Name Hangman's Wood & Deneholes SSSI

Reference1002016Natural England ContactKEELING - CHRISNatural England Phone Number0845 600 3078

 Hectares
 5.19

 Citation
 1006455

Hyperlink <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1006455">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1006455</a>

Name Globe Pit SSSI
Reference 1001695

Natural England ContactKEELING - CHRISNatural England Phone Number0845 600 3078Hectares0.44

**Citation** 1003076

 Hyperlink
 <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003076">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003076</a>

Name Grays Thurrock Chalk Pit SSSI

Reference 1001648

Natural England ContactWILLIAMS - CHARLIENatural England Phone Number0845 600 3078

 Hectares
 17.25

 Citation
 1003111

 $\underline{\text{http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003111}}$ 

Name Swanscombe Skull Site SSSI

Reference 1000325

Natural England Contact GODFREY - ROSEMARY

 Natural England Phone Number
 0845 600 3078

 Hectares
 3.88

 Citation
 1003665

 Hyperlink
 http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003665

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)

Name Baker's Hole SSSI

**Reference** 1000259

Natural England Contact GODFREY - ROSEMARY

 Natural England Phone Number
 0845 600 3078

 Hectares
 6.89

 Citation
 1001611

Hyperlink <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1001611">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1001611</a>

 Name
 Lion Pit SSSI

 Reference
 1001703

Natural England ContactKEELING - CHRISNatural England Phone Number0845 600 3078

Hectares 2.42

12/21/2016

**Citation** 1004015

 Hyperlink
 <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1004015">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1004015</a>

Name South Thames Estuary and Marshes SSSI

 Reference
 1000286

 Natural England Contact
 HYDE - PAUL

 Natural England Phone Number
 0845 600 3078

 Hectares
 5288.98

 Citation
 1003874

Hyperlink <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003874">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003874</a>

Name Hangman's Wood & Deneholes SSSI

Reference 1002016
Natural England Contact KEELING - CHRIS
Natural England Phone Number 0845 600 3078
Hostares 5.10

 Hectares
 5.19

 Citation
 1006455

Hyperlink <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1006455">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1006455</a>

Name Mucking Flats and Marshes SSSI

 Reference
 1002013

 Natural England Contact
 FULLER - NEIL

 Natural England Phone Number
 0845 600 3078

 Hectares
 312.71

 Citation
 1006131

Hyperlink <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1006131">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1006131</a>

NameGlobe Pit SSSIReference1001695Natural England ContactKEELING - CHRISNatural England Phone Number0845 600 3078

| Natural England Prione Number | 0845 600 | Hectares | 0.44 | Citation | 1003076 |

 $\underline{\text{http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003076}}$ 

Name Grays Thurrock Chalk Pit SSSI

Reference 1001648

Natural England ContactWILLIAMS - CHARLIENatural England Phone Number0845 600 3078Hectares17.25Citation1003111

 $\underline{\text{http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003111}}$ 

Name Shorne and Ashenbank Woods SSSI

**Reference** 1000322

Natural England ContactGODFREY - ROSEMARYNatural England Phone Number0845 600 3078

 Hectares
 197.44

 Citation
 1001250

 Hyperlink
 http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1001250

Name Swanscombe Skull Site SSSI

Reference 1000325

Natural England Contact GODFREY - ROSEMARY

Natural England Phone Number 0845 600 3078

 Hectares
 3.88

 Citation
 1003665

 Hyperlink
 <a href="http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003665">http://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=s1003665</a>

Special Protection Areas (England)

Name THAMES ESTUARY & MARSHES

 Reference
 UK9012021

 Hectares
 4802.47

Ramsar Sites (England) - points

No Features found

Special Areas of Conservation (England) - points

No Features found

Special Areas of Conservation (England)

No Features found

Special Protection Areas (England) - points

#### EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds: Special Protection Area

Name: Thames Estuary and Marshes

**Unitary Authority/County:** Essex County Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council, Medway Council, and Thurrock Borough Council.

**Consultation proposal:** Mucking Flats and Marshes SSSI and South Thames Estuary and Marshes SSSIs have been recommended as a Special Protection Area because of the site's European ornithological interest.

The Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area is a wetland of European importance comprising a mosaic of intertidal habitats, saltmarsh, coastal grazing marshes, saline lagoons and chalk pits. The site provides wintering and breeding habitats for important assemblages of wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders as well as supporting migratory birds on passage. The site forms part of the wider Thames Estuary together with other classified SPAs in both Essex and Kent.

**Boundary of SPA:** The SPA boundary is within or coincident with the above SSSI boundaries. See SPA map for further detail.

**Size of SPA:** The SPA covers an area of 4,838.94 ha.

**European ornithological importance of the SPA:** Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA is of European importance because:

a) the site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the GB populations of the following species listed on Annex I, in any season:

Annex I species	5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98	% GB population
Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta	283 individuals - wintering	28.3% GB
Hen Harrier Circus cyaneus	7 individuals - wintering	1.0% GB

b) the site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed on Annex I), in any season:

Species	5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98	% of population
Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula	1,324 individuals - passage	2.6% Europe/ Northern Africa (win)
Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola	2,593 individuals - wintering	1.7% Eastern Atlantic (wintering)
Dunlin Calidris alpina alpina	29,646 individuals - wintering	2.1% N Siberia/Europe/ W Africa
Knot Calidris canutus islandica	4,848 individuals - wintering	1.4% NE Can/Grl/ Iceland/NW Eur
Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa islandica	1,699 individuals - wintering	2.4% Iceland (breeding)
Redshank Tringa totanus totanus	3,251 individuals - wintering	2.2% Eastern Atlantic (wintering)



c) the site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by over 20,000 waterfowl in any season:

Period	Season	Population
1993/94 - 1997/98	Wintering	75,019

#### Non-qualifying species of interest

Other Annex 1 species which regularly occur on the site in non-qualifying numbers are breeding Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, and passage and wintering Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* and Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*.

The site also supports nationally important populations of Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* and Pochard *Aythya ferina*.

#### **Status of SPA**

The Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA was classified on 31 March 2000.







# European Site Conservation Objectives for Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9012021

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- > The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- > The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- > The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

#### **Qualifying Features:**

$\Delta \cap 82$	Circus cvaneus:	Han harriar	(Non-breeding)
AUOZ	Circus evari <del>c</del> us.	nen namer	(INOII-DIEEGIIIG)

A132 Recurvirostra avosetta; Pied avocet (Non-breeding)

A137 Charadrius hiaticula; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)

A141 Pluvialis squatarola; Grey plover (Non-breeding)

A143 Calidris canutus; Red knot (Non-breeding)

A149 Calidris alpina alpina; Dunlin (Non-breeding)

A156 Limosa limosa islandica; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A162 Tringa totanus; Common redshank (Non-breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

#### This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Thames Estuary and Marshes European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at: <a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx">http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx</a> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at <a href="mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk">enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk</a> or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

#### **Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives**

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a <u>Special Protection Area (SPA)</u>. Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to additional features identified in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.

# **Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands** (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

#### Notes for compilers:

- 1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
- 2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
- 3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1.	Name and address of the compiler of this form:	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.	
		DD MM YY	
	Joint Nature Conservation Committee		
	Monkstone House		
	City Road	Designation date	Site Reference Number
	Peterborough	-	
	Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY		
	UK		
	Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 - 562 626 / +44 (0)1	1733 – 555 948	
	Email: <u>RIS@JNCC.gov.uk</u>		
2.	Date this sheet was completed/updated:		
	Designated: 31 March 2000		
3.	Country:		
	UK (England)		
4	Name of the Ramsar site:		
4.			
	Thames Estuary and Marshes		
5.	Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existi	ng site:	
	8		
Thi	is RIS is for: Updated information on an existing Ram	cor cito	
1111	is Kis is for. Opdated information on all existing Kain	sai site	
6.	For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its	designation or earlie	r update:
a) \$	Site boundary and area:		

- \*\* Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.
- b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11069	Page 1 of 11	Thames Estuary and Marshes

#### 7. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

- a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:
  - i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): yes ✓ -or- no □;
  - ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) Yes
  - iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables  $yes \checkmark$  -or- $no \Box$ ;

#### b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

#### **8.** Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

51 29 08 N

00 35 47 E

#### 9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Gravesend

Contains part of the north coast of Kent and part of the southern coast of Essex, straddling the Thames estuary.

Administrative region: Essex; Kent; Medway; Thurrock

#### 10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): 11. Area (hectares): 5588.59

Min. -2 Max. 20 Mean 1

#### 12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

A complex of brackish, floodplain grazing marsh ditches, saline lagoons and intertidal saltmarsh and mudflat. These habitats together support internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl. The saltmarsh and grazing marsh are of international importance for their diverse assemblages of wetland plants and invertebrates.

#### 13. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

2, 5, 6

#### 14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 2

The site supports one endangered plant species and at least 14 nationally scarce plants of wetland habitats. The site also supports more than 20 British Red Data Book invertebrates.

**Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11069** Page 2 of 11 **Thames Estuary and Marshes** 

#### Ramsar criterion 5

#### Assemblages of international importance:

#### **Species with peak counts in winter:**

45118 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

#### **Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):**

#### Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Ringed plover, Charadrius hiaticula, 595 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% Europe/Northwest Africa

of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-

2002/3)

Black-tailed godwit, Limosa limosa islandica, 1640 individuals, representing an average of

Iceland/W Europe 4.6% of the population (5 year peak mean

1998/9-2002/3)

#### **Species with peak counts in winter:**

Grey plover, Pluvialis squatarola, E Atlantic/W 1643 individuals, representing an average of Africa -wintering

3.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean

1998/9-2002/3)

Red knot, Calidris canutus islandica, W & 7279 individuals, representing an average of

Southern Africa 1.6% of the population (5 year peak mean

1998/9-2002/3) (wintering)

Dunlin, Calidris alpina alpina, W Siberia/W 15171 individuals, representing an average of

1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean Europe

1998/9-2002/3)

1178 individuals, representing an average of 1% Common redshank, Tringa totanus totanus,

of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-

Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually. See www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm.

Details of bird species occuring at levels of National importance are given in Section 22

#### 15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

#### a) biogeographic region:

#### b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

#### 16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	alluvium, mud, shingle
Geomorphology and landscape	coastal, floodplain, intertidal sediments (including
	sandflat/mudflat), estuary
Nutrient status	eutrophic
pH	no information
Salinity	brackish / mixosaline, fresh, saline / euhaline
Soil	no information
Water permanence	usually permanent, usually seasonal / intermittent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Greenwich, 1971–2000)
	(www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites
	/greenwich.html)
	Max. daily temperature: 14.8° C
	Min. daily temperature: 7.2° C
	Days of air frost: 29.1
	Rainfall: 583.6 mm
	Hrs. of sunshine: 1461.0

#### General description of the Physical Features:

The marshes extend for about 15 km along the south side of the Thames estuary and also include intertidal areas on the north side of the estuary. To the south of the river, much of the area is brackish grazing marsh, although some of this has been converted to arable use. At Cliffe, there are flooded clay and chalk pits, some of which have been infilled with dredgings. Outside the sea-wall, there is a small extent of saltmarsh and broad intertidal mudflats.

#### 17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The marshes extend for about 15 km along the south side of the Thames estuary and also include intertidal areas on the north side of the estuary. To the south of the river, much of the area is brackish grazing marsh, although some of this has been converted to arable use. At Cliffe, there are flooded clay and chalk pits, some of which have been infilled with dredgings. Outside the sea-wall, there is a small extent of saltmarsh and broad intertidal mudflats.

#### 18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Shoreline stabilisation and dissipation of erosive forces, Sediment trapping, Flood water storage / desynchronisation of flood peaks, Maintenance of water quality (removal of nutrients)

#### 19. Wetland types:

Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
G	Tidal flats	49.6
4	Seasonally flooded agricultural land	38.6
Q	Saline / brackish lakes: permanent	4.2
Ss	Saline / brackish marshes: seasonal / intermittent	3.2
Other	Other	1.6
Н	Salt marshes	1.3
Е	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	0.8
O	Freshwater lakes: permanent	0.7

Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11069 Page 4 of 11 Thames Estuary and Marshes

#### 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The intertidal flats are mostly fine, silty sediment, though in parts they are sandy. The saltmarsh shows a transition from pioneer communities containing *Zostera* to saltmarsh dominated by, for example, *Atriplex portulacoides*. The grazing marsh grassland is mesotrophic and generally speciespoor. It does, however, contain scattered rarities, mostly annuals characteristic of bare ground. Where the grassland is seasonally inundated and the marshes are brackish the plant communities are intermediate between those of mesotrophic grassland and those of saltmarsh. The grazing marsh ditches contain a range of flora of brackish and fresh water. The aquatic flora is a mosaic of successional stages resulting from periodic clearance of drainage channels. The dominant emergent plants are *Phragmites communis* and *Bolboschoenus maritimus*. The saline lagoons have a diverse molluscan and crustacean fauna. Dominant plants in the lagoons include *Ulva* and *Chaetomorpha*.

Ecosystem services

#### 21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in **12**. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.* 

Nationally important species occurring on the site:

Higher plants:

The site supports a population of the endangered least lettuce *Lactuca saligna*, and also supports several nationally scarce plants, including bulbous foxtail *Alopecurus bulbosus*, slender hare's-ear *Bupleurum tenuissimum*, divided sedge *Carex divisa*, saltmarsh goosefoot *Chenopodium chenopodioides*, sea barley *Hordeum marinum*, golden samphire *Inula crithmoides*, annual beard grass *Polypogon monspeliensis*, Borrer's saltmarsh-grass *Puccinellia fasciculata*, stiff saltmarsh-grass *P. rupestris*, one-flowered glasswort *Salicornia pusilla*, clustered clover *Trifolium glomeratum*, sea clover *T. squamosum*, narrow-leaved eelgrass *Zostera angustifolia* and dwarf eelgrass *Z. noltei*.

#### 22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in **12**. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present* – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.

#### Rirds

#### **Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:**

#### Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Little grebe, *Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis*, Europe to E Urals, NW Africa

Little egret, *Egretta garzetta*, West Mediterranean

Ruff, Philomachus pugnax, Europe/W Africa

Common greenshank , *Tringa nebularia*, Europe/W Africa

251 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

54 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

23 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

38 individuals, representing an average of 6.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species with peak counts in winter:

Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11069 Page 5 of 11 Thames Estuary and Marshes

Common shelduck, Tadorna tadorna, NW

Europe

1238 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-

2002/3)

Gadwall, Anas strepera strepera, NW Europe

359 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-

2002/3)

Northern shoveler, Anas clypeata, NW & C

Europe

288 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-

2002/3)

Water rail, Rallus aquaticus, Europe

6 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-

2002/3)

Pied avocet, Recurvirostra avosetta,

Europe/Northwest Africa

607 individuals, representing an average of 17.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Spotted redshank, Tringa erythropus, Europe/W

Africa

6 individuals, representing an average of 4.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

#### **Species Information**

Nationally important species occurring on the site:

Invertebrates:

The endangered species Bagous longitarsis occurs on the site.

The following vulnerable species occur on the site: a groundbug *Henestaris halophilus*, a weevil *Bagous cylindrus*, a ground beetle *Polystichus connexus*, a cranefly *Erioptera bivittata*, a cranefly *Limnophila pictipennis*, a horse fly *Hybomitra expollicata*, a hoverfly *Lejops vittata*, a dancefly *Poecilobothrus ducalis*, a snail-killing fly *Pteromicra leucopeza*, a solitary wasp *Philanthus triangulum* and a damselfly *Lestes dryas*.

The following rare species occur on the site: a ground beetle Anisodactylus poeciloides, the water beetles Aulacochthebius exaratus, Berosus fulvus, Cercyon bifenestratus, Hydrochus elongatus, H. ignicollis, Ochthebius exaratus and Hydrophilus piceus, a beetle Malachius vulneratus, a rove beetle Philonthus punctus, a fungus beetle Telmatophilus brevicollis, a fly Campsicnemus magius, a horsefly Haematopota bigoti, a soldier fly Stratiomys longicornis and a spider Baryphyma duffeyi.

#### 23. Social and cultural values:

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Aesthetic

Archaeological/historical site

Environmental education/interpretation

Fisheries production

Livestock grazing

Non-consumptive recreation

Scientific research

Sport fishing

Sport hunting

**Tourism** 

Transportation/navigation

**b)** Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

#### 24. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation	+	+
(NGO)		
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	+
Private	+	+
Public/communal	+	

#### 25. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	+
Fishing: commercial	+	
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	
Gathering of shellfish	+	
Bait collection	+	
Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Livestock watering hole/pond	+	+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	+
Permanent pastoral agriculture	+	+
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	
Industrial water supply		+
Industry		+
Sewage treatment/disposal	+	+
Harbour/port	+	+
Flood control	+	
Transport route	+	+
Urban development		+
Military activities	+	

Produced by JNCC: Version 3.0, 13/06/2008

Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11069

## 26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

- 1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
- 2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Dredging	1		+	+	+
Erosion	2		+		+
Eutrophication	2	Studies by the Environment Agency indicate that the waters in the Thames estuary are hyper-nutrified for nitrogen and phosphorus.	+	+	+
General disturbance from human activities	1		+		+

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors? Erosion - The North Kent Coastal Habitat Management Plan (CHaMP) has been produced. The Environment Agency is producing a Flood Defence Strategy for the Thames (Thames 2100) and decisions on future flood risk management will need to take into account the effects on features within the designated sites. Studies of sediment transport and hydrodynamics within Thames estuary. Investigation of beneficial use of dredgings for mudflat recharge and creation of compensatory habitat.

Eutrophication - Water quality and sources of nutrient inputs are subject to further investigation by the Environment Agency as part of the Agency's review of consents under the Habitats Regulations. Stage 3 of the Review of Consents (appropriate assessment) is scheduled for completion by March 2006, at which point any consented discharges having an adverse effect on site integrity will be identified.

la tha	cita	subject to	advarca	000100	ical ab	ongo?	VEC
is the	site	subject to	adverse	ecolog	ıcaı en	iange /	YES

#### 27. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest	+	
(SSSI/ASSI)		
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	

Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11069 Page 8 of 11 Thames Estuary and Marshes

Produced by JNCC: Version 3.0, 13/06/2008

Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	+
Management agreement	+	
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)	+	+

#### **b**) Describe any other current management practices:

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

#### 28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

#### 29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Numbers of breeding waders have been monitored through the BTO/RSPB/English Nature/Defra survey Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows (2002).

Botanical surveys of vegetation of sea wall embankments and grazing marsh ditches have been carried out

The distribution and extent of saltmarsh habitat has been mapped - North Kent Marshes Saltmarsh Survey (2002) (Blair-Myres 2003)

The RSPB monitors various species groups on its reserves within the site

## 30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

The RSPB manages a network of reserves within and adjacent to the site, which are promoted locally through existing community initiatives, and more widely through publications and via the internet. The site forms part of proposals for a north Kent 'Regional Park', being promoted to balance development in Kent Thameside (part of the Thames Gateway growth area). The Management Guidance for the Thames Estuary aims to increase awareness of conservation and is promoted by the Thames Estuary Partnership. The Thames Estuary Partnership has also produced the Tidal Thames Habitat Action Plan to raise awareness of and address biodiversity issues.

#### 31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Yachting, angling, wildfowling, jet-skiing, water-skiing and birdwatching. Bird watching occurs throughout the year and wildfowling is restricted to the period September to February. The remaining activities occur year-round but are more prevalent in the summer months. Disturbance from these activities is a current issue but is being addressed through further research, negotiation and information dissemination.

#### 32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

**Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11069** Page 9 of 11 **Thames Estuary and Marshes** 

#### 33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House, Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

#### 34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

#### **Site-relevant references**

- Anon. (2002) North Kent Coastal Habitat Management Plan: Executive summary. English Nature, Peterborough (Living with the Sea LIFE Project) www.english-nature.org.uk/livingwiththesea/project\_details/good\_practice\_guide/HabitatCRR/ENRestore/CHaMPs/NorthKent/North KentCHaMP.pdf
- Barne, JH, Robson, CF, Kaznowska, SS, Doody, JP, Davidson, NC & Buck, AL (eds.) (1998) Coasts and seas of the United Kingdom. Region 7 South-east England: Lowestoft to Dungeness. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. (Coastal Directories Series.)
- Blair-Myers, CN (2003) North Kent Marshes Saltmarsh Survey 2002. Kent County Council, Maidstone
- Buck, AL (ed.) (1993) An inventory of UK estuaries. Volume 5. Eastern England. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough
- Burd, F (1989) *The saltmarsh survey of Great Britain. An inventory of British saltmarshes.* Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough (Research & Survey in Nature Conservation, No. 17)
- Carter Ecological Ltd. (2003) Sea walls, North Kent Marshes 2002: Factors affecting the occurrence of nationally scarce plant species on sea walls in three North Kent SSSIs. English Nature, Wye
- Covey, R (1998) Chapter 6. Eastern England (Bridlington to Folkestone) (MNCR Sector 6). In: *Benthic marine ecosystems of Great Britain and the north-east Atlantic*, ed. by K. Hiscock, 179-198. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. (Coasts and Seas of the United Kingdom. MNCR series)
- Cranswick, PA, Waters, RJ, Musgrove, AJ & Pollitt, MS (1997) *The Wetland Bird Survey 1995–96: wildfowl and wader counts.* British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge
- Dean, BJ, Webb, A, McSorley, CA & Reid, JB (2003) Aerial surveys of UK inshore areas for wintering seaduck, divers and grebes: 2000/01 and 2001/02. *JNCC Report*, No. **333**. www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2346
- Doody, JP, Johnston, C & Smith, B (1993) *Directory of the North Sea coastal margin*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough
- Kent County Council (1992) North Kent Marshes study. Kent County Council, Maidstone
- English Nature (2001) Thames Estuary European marine site: English Nature's advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994. English Nature, Wye
- Godfrey, A (2003) Grazing Marsh Invertebrate Project: Site-Specific Report. Final Report to the Environment Agency/English Nature. Environment Agency, West Malling / English Nature, Wye
- Musgrove, AJ, Langston, RHW, Baker, H & Ward, RM (eds.) (2003) Estuarine waterbirds at low tide. The WeBS Low Tide Counts 1992–93 to 1998–99. WSG/BTO/WWT/RSPB/JNCC, Thetford (International Wader Studies, No. 16)
- Musgrove, AJ, Pollitt, MS, Hall, C, Hearn, RD, Holloway, SJ, Marshall, PE, Robinson, JA & Cranswick, PA (2001) *The Wetland Bird Survey 1999–2000: wildfowl and wader counts*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge. www.wwt.org.uk/publications/default.asp?PubID=14
- Ratcliffe, DA (ed.) (1977) A Nature Conservation Review. The selection of biological sites of national importance to nature conservation in Britain. Cambridge University Press (for the Natural Environment Research Council and the Nature Conservancy Council), Cambridge (2 vols.)
- Shirt, DB (ed.) (1987) British Red Data Books: 2. Insects. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough
- Stewart, A, Pearman, DA & Preston, CD (eds.) (1994) Scarce plants in Britain. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough
- Stroud, DA, Chambers, D, Cook, S, Buxton, N, Fraser, B, Clement, P, Lewis, P, McLean, I, Baker, H & Whitehead, S (eds.) (2001) *The UK SPA network: its scope and content*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (3 vols.) www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm
- Thames Estuary Partnership (1999) Management Guidance for the Thames Estuary. Thames Estuary Partnership, London

#### Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), page 11

- Thames Estuary Partnership (2003) *Tidal Thames Habitat Action Plan*. Thames Estuary Partnership, London. http://212.67.202.196/~teprep/dev/documents/uploaded/document/TTHAP.pdf
- Wiggington, M (1999) British Red Data Books. 1. Vascular plants. 3rd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough
- Williams, P (1996) A survey of ditch flora in the North Kent Marshes SSSIs, 1995. English Nature Research Reports, No. 167
- Williams, P & Ware, C [1997] Ditch communities on the North Kent Marshes SSSIs. *English Nature Research Reports*, No. **289**
- Worsfold, TM, Grist, NC & Hunter, P (2004) Review of intertidal invertebrate data available for the Medway, Swale and North Kent Marshes estuary systems, with recommendations for future work. Medway Swale Estuary Partnership, Faversham

Please return to: Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • email: <a href="mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org">ramsar@ramsar.org</a>

Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11069 Page 11 of 11 Thames Estuary and Marshes

Produced by JNCC: Version 3.0, 13/06/2008

COUNTY: KENT SITE NAME: SOUTH THAMES ESTUARY AND

**MARSHES** 

BOROUGHS: GRAVESHAM, ROCHESTER UPON MEDWAY

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1081 as amended

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended

Local Planning Authorities: GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL, Rochester

upon Medway Borough Council

National Grid Reference: TQ 770785 Area. 5449.14 (ha.) 13459.38 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 178 1:10,000: TQ 67 SE, NE

TQ 77 SW, NW, NE TQ 87 NW, NE

Dates Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951, 1968 Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1984 Date of Last Revision: 1991

#### Other Information:

Parts of the site are listed in 'A Nature Conservation Review', D A Ratcliffe (ed) CUP 1979. The site is also a candidate for designation under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) and as a Special Protection Area under European Community Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds. The site includes the former sites of Higham Marshes SSSI, Cliffe and Cooling Marshes SSSI and part of Medway Marshes SSSI. There are also four extensions to the existing SSSIs.

#### Reasons for Notification:

The South Thames Estuary and Marshes SSSI from Gravesend to the eastern end of the Isle of Grain forms a major component of the Greater Thames Estuary. The site consists of an extensive mosaic of grazing marsh, saltmarsh, mudflats and shingle characteristic of the estuarine habitats of the north Kent marshes. Freshwater pools and some areas of woodland provide additional variety and complement the estuarine habitats. The site supports outstanding numbers of waterfowl with total counts regularly exceeding 20,000. Many species regularly occur in nationally important numbers and some species regularly use the site in internationally important numbers. The breeding bird community is also of particular interest. The diverse habitats within the site support a number of nationally rare and scarce invertebrate species and an assemblage of nationally scarce plants.

#### Birds

The mudflats attract large numbers of feeding waders and wildfowl with the site being regularly used by redshank *Tringa totanus* in internationally important numbers. There is evidence from recent winter low-water counts that knot *Calidris canuta* and dunlin *Calidris alpina* exceed internationally important

numbers when feeding on the mudflats. These counts also indicate that avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* and ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* regularly exceed nationally important numbers.

During the high tide period, waterfowl disperse to roosts in marshes in north Kent and Essex. Nevertheless, high tide counts for this site clearly reveal species regularly reaching nationally important numbers in winter including European white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* spp *albifrons*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, gadwall *Anas strepera*, teal *Anas crecca*, pintail *Anas acuta*, shoveler *Anas clypeata*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, curlew *Numenius arquata* and blacktailed godwit *Limosa limosa*. In addition, nationally important numbers of grey plover, curlew, black-tailed godwit, redshank and greenshank *Tringa nebularia* occur during autumn passage with redshank maintaining their nationally important numbers on spring passage.

During the breeding season the south Thames marshes support an outstanding assemblage of breeding birds including rare<sup>5</sup> species such as garganey *Anas querquedula*, pintail, avocet and bearded tit *Panurus biarmicus*.

Specially protected birds<sup>6</sup> found within the site include hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*, ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, common tern *Sterna hirundo*, avocet and golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

#### Vegetation

The saltmarshes support characteristic vegetation dominated by the saltmarsh grasses *Puccinellia*, the glassworts *Salicornia*, sea aster *Aster tripolium*, sea lavender *Limonium vulgare* and sea purslane *Halimione portulacoides*, with nationally scarce plants such as golden samphire *Inula crithmoides*<sup>4</sup> and *Puccinellia fasciculata*<sup>4</sup>.

The grazing marsh complexes, including seawalls, counterwalls, fleets, dykes, runnels and seasonally wet depressions provide suitable conditions for a wide range of plants and animals. The grassland habitats range from the damp muddy areas near the dykes, where characteristic plants include divided sedge *Carex* divisa<sup>4</sup>, small goosefoot Chenopodium botryodes<sup>4</sup> and golden dock Rumex maritimus<sup>4</sup>, to the dry seawalls and counterwalls which support scarce species in addition to many widespread plants. These scarce plants include slender hare's ear Bupleurum tenuissimum<sup>4</sup>, sea clover Trifolium squamosum<sup>4</sup> and sea barley Hordeum marinum<sup>4</sup>, all of which are more abundant in the Thames estuary than elsewhere in Britain. Some seasonally damp depressions in the grassland contain the bulbous foxtail grass *Alopecurus bulbosus*<sup>4</sup> whilst the more level turf is dominated by a variety of grasses including other foxtails *Alopecurus*, bents Agrostis, rye-grass Lolium perenne and fescues Festuca, with various herbs such as clovers Trifolium and buttercups Ranunculus also present. The rare and specially protected least lettuce *Lactuca saligna*<sup>7</sup> which was previously recorded on seawalls in this site may still survive.

The dykes and fleets which are an integral part of the grazing marsh have a range of salinities and consequently support an interesting range of plants. Those nearest the sea tend to be the most brackish, and generally have sea club-rush *Scirpus maritimus*, common reed *Phragmites australis* and fennel pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* as the most abundant species; some also include nationally scarce species such as brackish water-crowfoot *Ranunculus baudotii*<sup>4</sup>. In the freshwater dykes further inland there is a greater variety of species, plants such as branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* and reed-maces *Typha* spp. may become dominant. Nationally scarce plants associated with the dykes include soft hornwort *Ceratophyllum submersum*<sup>4</sup> with water soldier *Stratiotes aloides*<sup>4</sup> present in dykes near Higham.

The mudflats have beds of eelgrass including *Zostera angustifolia*<sup>4</sup> and *Z. noltii*<sup>4</sup> and the Allhallows region of the site has areas of vegetated shingle with the nationally scarce sea kale *Crambe maritima*<sup>4</sup> present.

#### Invertebrates

This site supports a diverse invertebrate fauna and includes nationally rare<sup>3</sup> beetles, flies and true bugs. The 'scarce emerald damselfly' *Lestes dryas*, listed in the British Red Data Book\*, in the Cliffe area of the site. In addition, 100 nationally scarce species of invertebrate have been recorded including *Lejops vittata* (a hoverfly), *Saldula opacula* (a shorebug) and the dotted fan-foot moth *Macrochilo cribrumalis*, all of which are restricted to wetland, estuarine or grazing marsh habitats. The water beetle fauna is of particular interest and includes four species of *Bagous* (aquatic weevils), three species of *Berosus* and the great silver water beetle *Hydrophilus piceus*.

#### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Nationally important numbers corresponds to more than 1% of the British population.
- $^2$  Internationally important numbers corresponds to more than 1% of the northwest European population.
- $^3$  Species regarded as nationally rare are recorded from 1–15 of the  $10 \times 10$ km squares in Britain.
- $^4$  Species regarded as nationally scarce are recorded from 16–100 of the 10 imes 10km squares in Britain.
- <sup>5</sup> Listed in 'Red Data Birds in Britain', NCC/RSPB 1990.
- <sup>6</sup> Species listed on Annex 1 of the EEC Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).
- <sup>7</sup> Plants listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

COUNTY: ESSEX SITE NAME: MUCKING FLATS & MARSHES

DISTRICT: THURROCK

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Local Planning Authority: Thurrock Borough Council

National Grid Reference: TQ 696785 Area: 311.56 (ha.) 769.86 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:500,000: 178 1:10,000: TQ 67 NE

TQ 68 SE TQ 77 NW TQ 78 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): – Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1991 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information: This is a new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Mucking Flats and Marshes comprise an extensive stretch of Thames mudflats and saltmarsh, together with sea wall grassland.

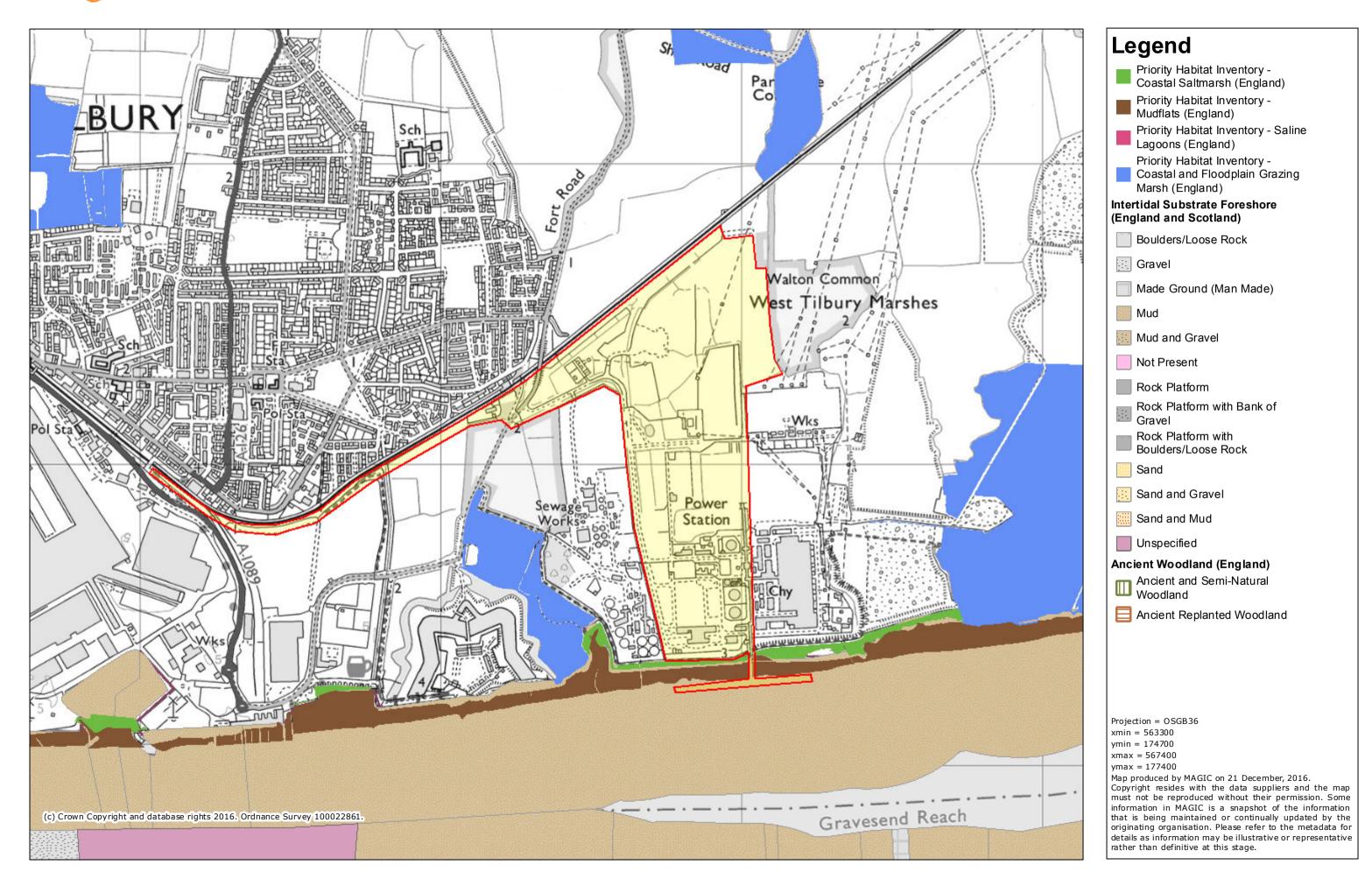
Wintering wildfowl and waders reach both nationally and internationally important numbers on the mudflats, roosting and feeding on adjacent saltmarsh and disused silt lagoons.

The mudflats form the largest intertidal feeding area for wintering wildfowl and waders west of Canvey Island on the north bank of the Thames. Ringed Plover occur in internationally important numbers, with nationally important populations of Shelduck, Grey Plover, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit and Redshank. Other species occur in good numbers, with Avocet regularly present, sometimes in nationally important numbers. The mudflats and saltmarsh are also an important staging post for passage migrants, with significant numbers of waders such as Curlew sandpiper and an important late summer flock of yellow-legged herring gulls. The saltmarshes provide important high tide roosts, as do the disused silt lagoons at Coalhouse Fort. The value of the site is enhanced by its proximity to Cliffs and Cooling Marshes SSSI and Higham Marshes SSSI across the Thames in Kent, with which there is an interchange of roosting and feeding birds.

Between the sea wall and mean high water line lie areas of high level saltmarsh of a type uncommon in Essex. The vegetation is dominated by sea couch *Elymus pycnanthus* and sea purslane *Halimione portulacoides*, with sea aster *Aster tripolium*, common sealavender *Limonium vulgare* and common saltmarsh-grass *Puccinellia maritima*. Fragments of lower saltmarsh include glasswort *Salicornia spp.*, common cordgrass *Spartina anglica* and lesser sea-spurrey *Spergularia marina*, together with the nationally scarce golden samphire *Inula crithmoides*. The saltmarshes are truncated to their landward edge by sea walls, which in places are vegetated with a sward dominated by sea couch *Elymus pycnanthus*. The saltmarsh has a high invertebrate interest, which includes the rare spider *Baryphyma duffeyi*, as well as many notable and local species.



### **Tilbury Power Station: Priority Habitats Map**



Site Check Report Report generated on Wed Dec 21 2016 You selected the location: Centroid Grid Ref: TQ651760 The following features have been found in your search area:

#### Priority Habitat Inventory - Coastal Saltmarsh (England)

Main Habitat Present Coastal saltmarsh

**Confidence in Main Habitat Classification** Medium

Name of 1st Data Source **Environment Agency Saltmarsh Extents** 

Date of 1st Data Source 01/07/2011 **Habitat Class of 1st Data Source** Priority Habitat **Habitat Type of 1st Data Source** Coastal Saltmarsh

Name of 2nd Data Source Null Date of 2nd Data Source Null Habitat Class of 2nd Data Source Null **Habitat Type of 2nd Data Source** Null Name of 3rd Data Source Null Date of 3rd Data Source Null **Habitat Class of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitat Type of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitats Directive Annex 1** Null **Other Priority Habitats Present** Null

**Identified Candidate Habitats** Main habitat: SALTM (INV > 50%)

**Decision Made By Rulesets** Null **Determination Comment for Main Habitat** Null Area (Hectares) 0.874433 Unique Parcel Reference Number (OS Grid Reference of centreTQ6618775380

Main Habitat Present Coastal saltmarsh

Confidence in Main Habitat Classification Medium

Name of 1st Data Source **Environment Agency Saltmarsh Extents** 

**Date of 1st Data Source** 01/07/2011 **Habitat Class of 1st Data Source** Priority Habitat **Habitat Type of 1st Data Source** Coastal Saltmarsh

Name of 2nd Data Source Null Date of 2nd Data Source Null **Habitat Class of 2nd Data Source** Null **Habitat Type of 2nd Data Source** Null Name of 3rd Data Source Null **Date of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitat Class of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitat Type of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitats Directive Annex 1** Null **Other Priority Habitats Present** Null

**Identified Candidate Habitats** Main habitat: SALTM (INV > 50%)

**Decision Made By Rulesets** Null **Determination Comment for Main Habitat** Null Area (Hectares) 0.488127 Unique Parcel Reference Number (OS Grid Reference of centreTQ6582075340

point)

Main Habitat Present Coastal saltmarsh

**Confidence in Main Habitat Classification** Medium

Name of 1st Data Source **Environment Agency Saltmarsh Extents** 

Date of 1st Data Source 01/07/2011 **Habitat Class of 1st Data Source** Priority Habitat **Habitat Type of 1st Data Source** Coastal Saltmarsh

Name of 2nd Data Source Null Date of 2nd Data Source Null **Habitat Class of 2nd Data Source** Null **Habitat Type of 2nd Data Source** Null Name of 3rd Data Source Null Null Date of 3rd Data Source **Habitat Class of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitat Type of 3rd Data Source** Null Null **Habitats Directive Annex 1 Other Priority Habitats Present** Null

**Identified Candidate Habitats** Main habitat: SALTM (INV > 50%)

**Decision Made By Rulesets** Null **Determination Comment for Main Habitat** Null Area (Hectares) 0.003545

Unique Parcel Reference Number (OS Grid Reference of centreTQ6603575371

point)

**Main Habitat Present** Coastal saltmarsh

**Confidence in Main Habitat Classification** 

Medium

#### 12/21/2016

Name of 1st Data Source **Environment Agency Saltmarsh Extents** 

Date of 1st Data Source 01/07/2011 **Habitat Class of 1st Data Source** Priority Habitat **Habitat Type of 1st Data Source** Coastal Saltmarsh

Name of 2nd Data Source Date of 2nd Data Source Null Null Habitat Class of 2nd Data Source **Habitat Type of 2nd Data Source** Null Name of 3rd Data Source Null **Date of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitat Class of 3rd Data Source** Null Habitat Type of 3rd Data Source Null **Habitats Directive Annex 1** Null **Other Priority Habitats Present** Null

**Identified Candidate Habitats** Main habitat: SALTM (INV > 50%)

**Decision Made By Rulesets Determination Comment for Main Habitat** Null Area (Hectares) 0.016734

Unique Parcel Reference Number (OS Grid Reference of centreTQ6601475367

#### Priority Habitat Inventory - Mudflats (England)

Main Habitat Present Mudflats Confidence in Main Habitat Classification Low

Name of 1st Data Source Biodiversity Key Resources Inventory - (Environment Agency R&D Technical Report E2A)

01/01/2002 Date of 1st Data Source **Habitat Class of 1st Data Source** N/A **Habitat Type of 1st Data Source** N/A OS 10K raster Name of 2nd Data Source Date of 2nd Data Source 24/05/2002 Habitat Class of 2nd Data Source N/A **Habitat Type of 2nd Data Source** N/A Name of 3rd Data Source Null Null

Date of 3rd Data Source **Habitat Class of 3rd Data Source** Null Null **Habitat Type of 3rd Data Source Habitats Directive Annex 1** Null **Other Priority Habitats Present** Null Identified Candidate Habitats

Main habitat: MUDFL (INV > 50%)

**Decision Made By Rulesets Determination Comment for Main Habitat** OS10k mud 1.253597 Area (Hectares) Unique Parcel Reference Number (OS Grid Reference of centreTQ6618075326

**Main Habitat Present** Mudflats Confidence in Main Habitat Classification Iow

Name of 1st Data Source Biodiversity Key Resources Inventory - (Environment Agency R&D Technical Report E2A)

Date of 1st Data Source 01/01/2002 N/A Habitat Class of 1st Data Source **Habitat Type of 1st Data Source** N/A Name of 2nd Data Source OS 10K raster **Date of 2nd Data Source** 24/05/2002

**Habitat Class of 2nd Data Source** N/A **Habitat Type of 2nd Data Source** N/A Name of 3rd Data Source Null **Date of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitat Class of 3rd Data Source** Null Null **Habitat Type of 3rd Data Source Habitats Directive Annex 1** Null Other Priority Habitats Present Null

**Identified Candidate Habitats** Main habitat: MUDFL (INV > 50%)

**Decision Made By Rulesets** Null **Determination Comment for Main Habitat** OS10k mud Area (Hectares) 1.641465 Unique Parcel Reference Number (OS Grid Reference of centreTQ6585275303

point)

Main Habitat Present Mudflats **Confidence in Main Habitat Classification** Low

OS 10K raster Name of 1st Data Source **Date of 1st Data Source** 24/05/2002 **Habitat Class of 1st Data Source** N/A **Habitat Type of 1st Data Source** N/A Name of 2nd Data Source Null Date of 2nd Data Source Null

#### 12/21/2016

**Habitat Class of 2nd Data Source** Null Habitat Type of 2nd Data Source Null Name of 3rd Data Source Null **Date of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitat Class of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitat Type of 3rd Data Source** Null **Habitats Directive Annex 1** Null Other Priority Habitats Present Null

Identified Candidate Habitats Main habitat: MUDFL (INV > 50%)

 Decision Made By Rulesets
 Null

 Determination Comment for Main Habitat
 OS10k mud

 Area (Hectares)
 0.088246

 Unique Parcel Reference Number (OS Grid Reference of centreTQ6606575354

point)

#### Intertidal Substrate Foreshore (England and Scotland)

Source BASED ON BGS EXPERT KNOWLEDGE AND ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA

Foreshore MUD Backshore Null

#### Priority Habitat Inventory - Saline Lagoons (England)

No Features found

#### Priority Habitat Inventory - Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (England)

No Features found

#### **Ancient Woodland (England)**

No Features found