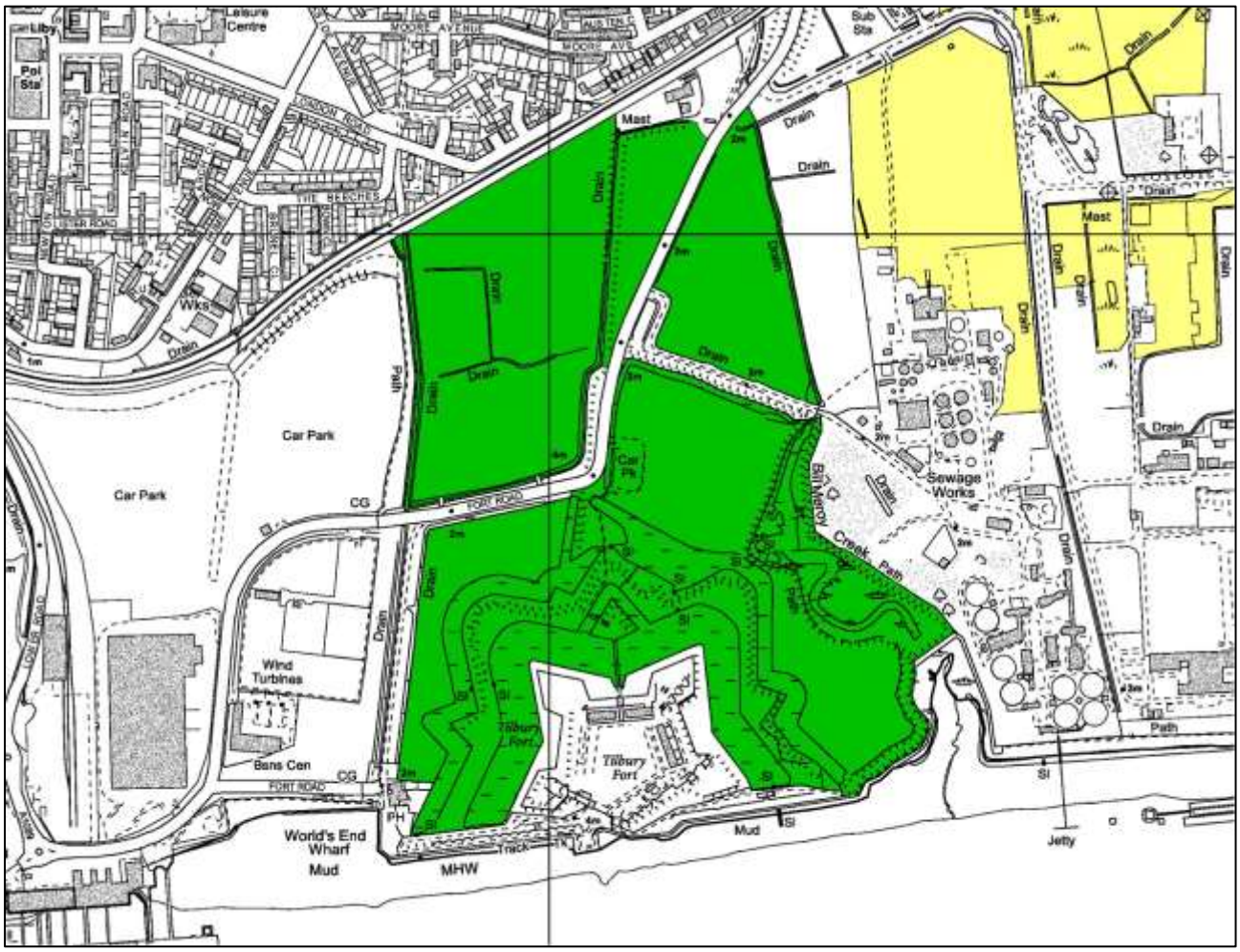
Appendix 1.2.14b

Th37. Tilbury Marshes (40.56 ha) TQ 65127563



Description

This Site comprises relict grazing-marsh, brackish ditches and the outer moats and grasslands of Tilbury Fort. The moats are prone to inundation with brackish water and also, in the past, to periodic drying. These moats should be examined for invertebrates associated with saline lagoons, an Essex habitat BAP. This has had the benefit of allowing a diverse saltmarsh flora to develop, with species such as Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardii*), Glassworts (*Salicornia* spp.), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Annual Seablite (*Suaeda maritima*) and the nationally scarce Stiff Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia rupestris*) and Sea Barley (*Hordeum marinum*).

The grazing land supports a good grazing-marsh flora, with many Nationally Scarce plants such as Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*), Sea Barley, Slender Hare's-ear (*Bupleurum tenuissimum*) grassland, with some Hairy Buttercup (*Ranunculus sardous*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus tenuis*), Hard-grasses (*Parapholis* sp.) and Sea-spurreys (*Spergularia* spp.).

The north-western section lies adjacent to the now-lost "Ferry Fields" grassland, an important invertebrate habitat destroyed by development, but some of the key species may survive on these remaining fragments of grassland.

Ownership and Access
In multiple ownership, including English Heritage. Parts of the site are access via Tilbury Fort during opening hours, with a number of rights of way also crossing the site. The northern fields either side of Fort Road are currently listed as Open Access land.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Selection Criterion
HC21 Coastal Grazing Marsh

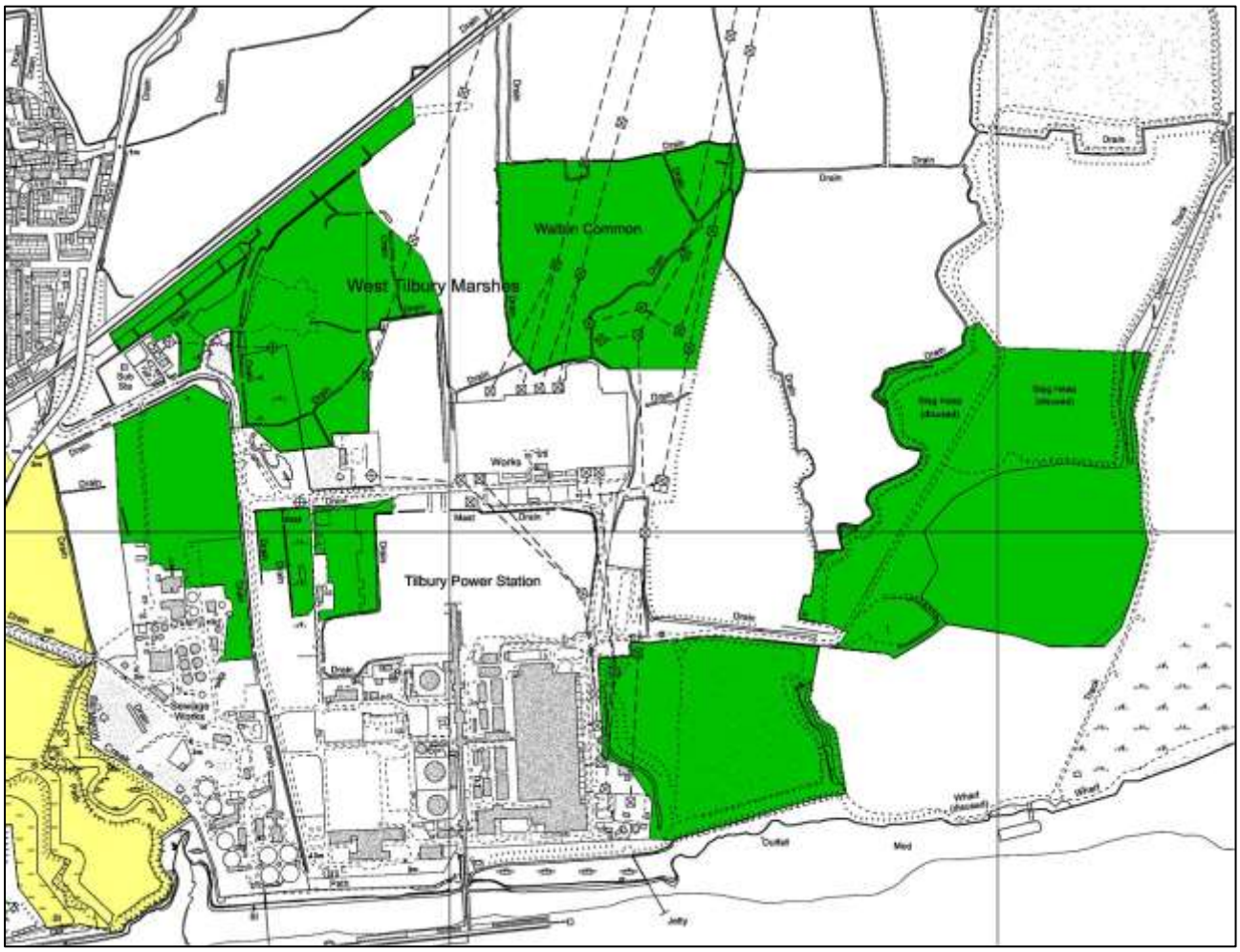
Condition Statement
Under threat from port expansion. Overall, good, although uncontrolled grazing may be having a negative impact is too intense.

Management Issues
Such grasslands have developed under a historical regime of grazing livestock. This is evident today, but in the form of uncontrolled horse pasturing by local people. Such grazing is vital and should be continued, if better controlled.

Review Schedule
Site Selected: 1992 (as part of larger site)

Reviewed: 2006 (significant deletion); 2016

Th39. Tilbury Power Station (81.76 ha) TQ 66267623



Description

This much-enlarged site comprises several old LoWS plus additional land, some of which is believed to be in the ownership of Anglian Water rather than the owners of the power station. LoWS Th39 was formerly identified as 'Lytag Brownfield', which comprises the north-western block of habitat in this new site. This site now also includes the old Th 40 Tilbury Centre and part of Th49 Goshems Farm, the majority of which has been destroyed by work to improve the capping of the former landfill.

The rough grassland within the Lytag brownfield section is of importance for its reptile populations, with all four Essex species (Adder, Grass Snake, Common Lizard and Slow-worm) known to occur here in large numbers. This reptile interest it likely to be widespread across the site in general. The whole old Lytag works area was identified as an area with high invertebrate potential in the Buglife 'All of a Buzz in the Thames Gateway' project (2005-8) and it still satisfies Buglife's criteria for the identification of 'Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land' HPIE. This habitat type also occurs within the land to the north of the adjacent sewage treatment works and also in a block of land immediately to the east of the main power station building. Small areas of lichen heath on former railway lines within the Lytag site are also of interest.

The grounds of the former Tilbury Energy and Environment Centre also supports areas of Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land, along with a small stand of reed amongst a mosaic of other wetland and grassland habitats. A pond is notable for its colony of Stonewort (*Chara* sp.) and the nationally rare (Red Data Book) Great Silver Beetle (*Hydrophilus piceus*).

To the east of the Lytag site, Walton Common is an area of Open Access land and comprises remnant coastal grazing marsh that would formerly have dominated the local landscape. It provides additional foraging habitat for key invertebrates such as the Brown-banded Carder-bee (*Bombus humilis*) as well as representing additional reptile habitat.

The easternmost block of land includes a surviving section of the former Goshems Farm LoWS, a site known to have an exceptional invertebrate interest. Additional rough grassland and brownfield vegetation has been added to this section.

Ownership and Access
It is believed that much of this land is now owned by the Port of Tilbury Authority, with the exception of the land adjacent to the sewage treatment works. Because of the dangers of former commercial/industrial activity, public access is limited, although Walton Common is currently listed as Open Access land and there is a public right of way running along the Thames shoreline.

Habitats of Principal Importance in England
Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh

Selection Criteria
HC21 Coastal Grazing Marsh
HC27 Post-industrial Sites
SC16 Hotspots for Reptile Diversity

Rationale
Sites supporting all four Essex reptile species are rare. The Adder population here is especially large. The majority of the site clearly conforms to the HPIE Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land, as defined by Buglife. Survey work has confirmed the invertebrate interest of these areas. The surviving fragment of grazing marsh at Walton Common is worthy of conservation in its own right but provides additional foraging habitat for invertebrates and reptiles.

Condition Statement
It remains in good condition at present.

Management Issues
Much of the site is believed to be under threat from development associated with Tilbury Port. Little active management is needed, although traditionally Walton Common would have been grazed. This is likely to be difficult to manage and control given difficult site access.

Review Schedule
Site Selected: 1992 (small part)

Reviewed: 2006 (significant additions); 2016 (significant amalgamations and additions)