

Site Improvement Plan

Greater Thames Complex

Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been developed for each Natura 2000 site in England as part of the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS). Natura 2000 sites is the combined term for sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Areas (SPA). This work has been financially supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Community.

The plan provides a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 features on the site(s) and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. It does not cover issues where remedial actions are already in place or ongoing management activities which are required for maintenance.

The SIP consists of three parts: a Summary table, which sets out the priority Issues and Measures; a detailed Actions table, which sets out who needs to do what, when and how much it is estimated to cost; and a set of tables containing contextual information and links.

Once this current programme ends, it is anticipated that Natural England and others, working with landowners and managers, will all play a role in delivering the priority measures to improve the condition of the features on these sites.

The SIPs are based on Natural England's current evidence and knowledge. The SIPs are not legal documents, they are live documents that will be updated to reflect changes in our evidence/knowledge and as actions get underway. The information in the SIPs will be used to update England's contribution to the UK's Prioritised Action Framework (PAF).

The SIPs are not formal consultation documents, but if you have any comments about the SIP or would like more information please email us at IPENSLIFEProject@naturalengland.org.uk, or contact Natural England's Responsible Officer for the site via our enquiry service 0300 060 3900, or enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

This Site Improvement Plan covers the following Natura 2000 site(s)

UK9009171 Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA

UK9012031 Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA

UK9012021 Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA

UK9012011 The Swale SPA

Site description

The Greater Thames Complex consists of the Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA, the Medway Estuary SPA, the Swale SPA and Benfleet & Southend Marshes SPA.

The Medway Estuary feeds into and lies on the south side of the outer Thames Estuary in Kent, south-east England. It forms a single tidal system with the Swale and joins the Thames Estuary between the Isle of Grain and the Isle of Sheppey.

The Swale is an estuarine area that separates the Isle of Sheppey from the Kent mainland and joins the Medway to the west.

Benfleet and Southend Marshes is an estuarine area on the Essex side of the Thames Estuary.

These four sites contain a wide diversity of coastal habitats, such as grazing marsh, saltmarsh and mud/sandflat and eelgrass beds that support important numbers of waterbirds throughout the year. Wintering birds that use these estuaries include grebes, geese, ducks and waders whilst in summer breeding birds can be found, such as waders and terns. The area is also important for spring and autumn migration periods.

Plan Summary

This table shows the prioritised issues for the site(s), the features they affect, the proposed measures to address the issues and the delivery bodies whose involvement is required to deliver the measures. The list of delivery bodies will include those who have agreed to the actions as well as those where discussions over their role in delivering the actions is on-going.

Priority & Issue	Pressure or Threat	Feature(s) affected	Measure	Delivery Bodies
1 Coastal squeeze	Pressure	A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent Goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A054(NB) Pintail, A056(NB) Shoveler, A081(B) Marsh Harrier, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A132(B) Avocet, A132(NB) Avocet, A137(NB) Ringed Plover, A140(NB) Golden Plover, A141(NB) Grey Plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed Godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed Godwit, A162(NB) Common redshank, A176(B) Mediterranean Gull, A195(B) Little Tern, Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Implement the South East Habitat Creation Programme	Environment Agency, Natural England

2 Public Access/Disturbance	Pressure/Threat	A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent Goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A054(NB) Pintail, A056(NB) Shoveler, A081(B) Marsh Harrier, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A132(B) Avocet, A132(NB) Avocet, A137(NB) Ringed Plover, A140(NB) Golden Plover, A141(NB) Grey Plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed Godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed Godwit, A162(NB) Common redshank, A176(B) Mediterranean Gull, A195(B) Little Tern, Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Investigate sources of disturbance within the SPAs to inform management	Environment Agency, Local Authorities, Natural England
3 Invasive species	Threat	A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent Goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A054(NB) Pintail, A056(NB) Shoveler, A081(B) Marsh Harrier, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A132(B) Avocet, A132(NB) Avocet, A137(NB) Ringed Plover, A140(NB) Golden Plover, A141(NB) Grey Plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed Godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed Godwit, A162(NB) Common redshank, A176(B) Mediterranean Gull, A195(B) Little Tern, Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Establish the baseline of Carpet sea squirt and Pacific Oyster distribution	Environment Agency, Natural England, Medway Ports, Medway and Swale Estuary Partnership, Thames Estuary Partnership
4 Changes in species distributions	Pressure/Threat	A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent Goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A054(NB) Pintail, A056(NB) Shoveler, A081(B) Marsh Harrier, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A132(B) Avocet, A132(NB) Avocet, A137(NB) Ringed Plover, A140(NB) Golden Plover, A141(NB) Grey Plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed Godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed Godwit, A162(NB) Common redshank, A176(B) Mediterranean Gull, A195(B) Little Tern, Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Investigation to identify cause of the decline in SPA birds	Natural England, RSPB, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
5 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine	Pressure/Threat	A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent Goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A054(NB) Pintail, A056(NB) Shoveler, A081(B) Marsh Harrier, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A132(B) Avocet, A132(NB) Avocet, A137(NB) Ringed Plover, A140(NB) Golden Plover, A141(NB) Grey Plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed Godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed Godwit, A162(NB) Common redshank, A176(B) Mediterranean Gull, A195(B) Little Tern, Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Investigate fishing activity, and mechanisms for regulating it	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Natural England

6	Invasive species	Threat	Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Investigate the impact of freshwater invasives on SPA birds	Environment Agency, Natural England, Medway and Swale Estuary Partnership, Thames Estuary Partnership
7	Invasive species	Threat	A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent Goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A054(NB) Pintail, A056(NB) Shoveler, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A132(NB) Avocet, A137(NB) Ringed Plover, A140(NB) Golden Plover, A141(NB) Grey Plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed Godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed Godwit, A162(NB) Common redshank	Investigate the impact of <i>Spartina anglica</i> on native saltmarsh and birds	Environment Agency, Natural England
8	Vehicles: illicit	Pressure	A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent Goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A054(NB) Pintail, A056(NB) Shoveler, A081(B) Marsh Harrier, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A132(B) Avocet, A132(NB) Avocet, A137(NB) Ringed Plover, A140(NB) Golden Plover, A141(NB) Grey Plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed Godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed Godwit, A162(NB) Common redshank, A176(B) Mediterranean Gull, A195(B) Little Tern, Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Collate and report incidences of illicit vehicle use	Kent County Constabulary, Local Authorities, Natural England, Landowner(s)
9	Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine	Threat	A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent Goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A054(NB) Pintail, A056(NB) Shoveler, A081(B) Marsh Harrier, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A132(B) Avocet, A132(NB) Avocet, A137(NB) Ringed Plover, A140(NB) Golden Plover, A141(NB) Grey Plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed Godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed Godwit, A162(NB) Common redshank, A176(B) Mediterranean Gull, A195(B) Little Tern, Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Introduce appropriate management as required, and ensure compliance with bye-laws	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Natural England
10	Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Threat	A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A195(B) Little Tern, Seabird assemblage	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined

Issues and Actions

This table outlines the prioritised issues that are currently impacting or threatening the condition of the features, and the outstanding actions required to address them. It also shows, where possible, the estimated cost of the action and the delivery bodies whose involvement will be required to implement the action. Lead delivery bodies will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the action, but not necessarily funding it. Delivery partners will need to support the lead delivery body in implementing the action. In the process of developing the SIPs Natural England has approached the delivery bodies to seek agreement on the actions and their roles in delivering them, although in some cases these discussions have not yet been concluded. Other interested parties, including landowners and managers, will be involved as the detailed actions are agreed and delivered. Funding options are indicated as potential (but not necessarily agreed or secured) sources to fund the actions.

1 Coastal squeeze

Coastal defences exist along much of the coastline here. Sea level rise is also occurring. It is therefore certain that if circumstances do not change, much of the supporting habitats of the SPA birds will be lost/degraded through processes such as: coastal squeeze; sedimentation rates' inability to keep pace with sea level rise; and reduced exposure (the extent and duration) of mudflats and sandflats.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	The Environment Agency aims to implement the South East Habitat Creation Programme. Actions include the creation of compensatory habitat as required under the Habitats Directive for the loss of inter-tidal and grazing marsh habitats as a result of coastal squeeze. In addition, implement actions from our Shoreline Management Plans (Isle of Grain to South Foreland; Medway Estuary and Swale; Essex and South Suffolk), Thames Estuary 2100, and the Greater Thames Coastal Habitat Management Plan.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Creation of new habitat	Not yet determined	Environment Agency	Natural England

2 Public Access/Disturbance

Breeding and overwintering waterbirds are susceptible to human disturbance from a range of land- and water-based activities, including: boating and watersports; walking; bait-digging; fishing, and wildfowling. Some activities such as powerboating, may produce physical disturbance to habitats. Public access, (especially dog walking and recreational boating) was identified as a medium risk during the 2009 EMS risk review project and this activity is still occurring. Moderate levels of disturbance in less sensitive locations may have no significant effect on the numbers of birds using the SIP area but the types, levels and locations of potentially disturbing activities are constantly changing. Managing the changes to minimise the risk of disturbance impacts will require a better understanding of which species and habitats are most susceptible, which types of activity are most disturbing, and which locations and times of year are most sensitive. There is inadequate information to provide appropriate management.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
2A	Collate and analyse available data on the potential sources of disturbance within the SPAs, together with information on individual species' sensitivities to disturbance. This can draw on work already being undertaken on disturbance within areas such as The Humber and The Solent. Undertake research to fill gaps in our knowledge. Use the results of this to inform management decisions in the future.	£30000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	Environment Agency, Local Authorities

3 Invasive species

Non-native invasive species such as sea squirt and pacific oyster are spreading along the Kent coast and could begin to impact on the Swale. Sea squirt has been found in the Medway, and Pacific oysters are regarded as increasing in the Essex-Southend area. These species threaten habitats due to their ability to smother substrate and other sessile organisms. There is no good understanding of the overall distribution of these species in this site. Assessment is needed in key areas of ports and marinas, where introductions tend to first occur.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
3A	Create a baseline of the distribution of Carpet sea squirt and Pacific Oyster both within and near to the SPAs. Other marine invasives may also require investigation.	£10000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	Environment Agency

<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
3B	Encourage the adoption of bio-security plans and encourage the roll out of the "Check, clean, dry" campaign at ports and marinas. This can include the erection of signage and posters etc. Work is currently underway as part of the Marine Pathways project to create more appropriate and marine-specific guidance for "Clean, check, dry" campaigns. This is due to be completed by March 2015.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Bio-security plan	GB Non-native Species Secretariat (NNNS)	Medway Ports	Environment Agency, Port of London Authority, Medway and Swale Estuary Partnership, Thames Estuary Partnership

4 Changes in species distributions

There is a decline in population size for some of the bird species on some of the SPAs (Cook et al. 2013*). These are likely to be influenced by a number of factors which may vary across the four SPAs. Some of these influences are site-based as described in other parts of this Plan and some relate to wider, broad-scale changes such as wintering species distributions and effects from breeding grounds outside the UK. A greater understanding of the relative importance of site-based and wider influences is required in order to identify the potential for further actions that might halt declines, restore populations or identify scenarios where it is thought unlikely that site-based measures will reverse population declines. *Cook A.S.C.P., Barimore C., Holt C.A., Read W.J. & Austin G.E. 2013. Wetland Bird Survey Alerts 2009/2010: Changes in numbers of wintering waterbirds in the Constituent Countries of the United Kingdom, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). BTO Research Report 641. BTO, Thetford.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
4A	An evidence-based study is required to investigate more fully the major factors that are driving the SPA species' decline, using national and local sources of current evidence and further research where required. The study should aim to identify the relative importance of these factors and whether they are site-based or operating across a broader scale. The study should also identify residual evidence gaps and the means by which these might be filled. The study will allow recommendations for further actions where it is thought possible to halt or reverse population declines.	£50000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	RSPB, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

5 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine

The extent and impacts of fisheries on private grounds, particularly in the Swale Estuary, needs to be better understood. There are particular concerns regarding the dredging of shellfish within the SPAs which are a food source for the protected birds.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
5A	Investigate the ownership of private grounds in the area and determine the type and extent of fishing activities that occur.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
5B	Investigate mechanisms for regulating fishing activity in private grounds.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England

6 Invasive species

Freshwater non-native invasive species such as pennywort, crassula, parrots feather etc. can engulf ditches, leading to loss of habitat for diving ducks. Although there are some mechanisms in place to ensure ditch management, more baseline information is needed, particularly on those species for which ditch management is not the solution.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
6A	Investigate the impact of freshwater invasives on SPA birds. Determine exactly which species are affected and assess the significance of the habitats at threat to the population.	£10000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	Environment Agency, Medway and Swale Estuary Partnership, Thames Estuary Partnership

7 Invasive species

Spartina anglica may be increasing at the expense of other saltmarsh habitats with adverse implications for SPA bird roost areas in Benfleet & Southend Marshes.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
7A	The evidence project IPENS041 'Spartina anglica and its management in estuarine Natura 2000 sites' will be used to inform any management of Spartina that may be needed within the site.	£10000	2015	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	Environment Agency

8 Vehicles: illicit

The illicit use of motor vehicles (often bikes) occurs across the area. This can cause disturbance to SPA birds. This activity was identified as a medium risk during the 2009 EMS risk review project and is still occurring. Whilst various mechanisms are in place to prevent the use of vehicles they are clearly not entirely effective.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
8A	Collate information regarding known incidences of illicit vehicle use. Any registration details obtained should be passed onto the relevant authorities.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Enforcement: S34 Road Traffic Act/ S28p(6) Liaison With Natural England	Staff time	Natural England	Kent County Constabulary, Local Authorities, Landowner(s)
8B	Collate information regarding known incidences of illicit vehicle use for enforcement where third party damage or disturbance is observed.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Enforcement	Staff time	Natural England	Kent County Constabulary, Local Authorities, Landowner(s)
8C	Work with landowners to have a better understanding of the issue and possible solutions	Not yet determined	2015-20	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Staff time	Natural England	Landowner(s)
8D	Develop partnership with police, local authorities and landowners to ensure a quick response to incidence and accurate reporting.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Partnership agreement	Staff time	Natural England	Kent County Constabulary, Local Authorities

9 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine

Commercial fishing activities categorised as 'amber or green' under Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites require assessment and (where appropriate) management. This assessment will be undertaken by Kent & Essex IFCA. For activities categorised as 'green', these assessments should take account of any in-combination effects of amber activities, and/or appropriate plans or projects, in the site.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
9A	Where the assessments indicate management is required, introduce appropriate measures. Deadline 2016.	Not yet determined	2015-16	Regulation: Creation / amendment of byelaws	Not yet determined	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England
<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
9B	If management measures are established, ensure compliance with bye-laws and provide an appropriate level of reporting to ensure sites are well managed and to enable Natural England to provide advice on the condition of features and potential condition threats. Ongoing action.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Regulation: Creation / amendment of byelaws	Not yet determined	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	n/a

10 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site-relevant critical loads.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Action description</i>	<i>Cost estimate</i>	<i>Timescale</i>	<i>Mechanism</i>	<i>Funding option</i>	<i>Delivery lead body</i>	<i>Delivery partner(s)</i>
10A	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined	2014-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Not yet determined

Site details

The tables in this section contain site-relevant contextual information and links

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA

A143(NB) *Calidris canutus*: Red knot

Waterbird assemblage

A137(NB) *Charadrius hiaticula*: Ringed plover

A149(NB) *Calidris alpina alpina*: Dunlin

A141(NB) *Pluvialis squatarola*: Grey plover

A046a(NB) *Branta bernicla bernicla*: Dark-bellied brent goose

Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA

A132(B) *Recurvirostra avosetta*: Pied avocet

Breeding bird assemblage

A141(NB) *Pluvialis squatarola*: Grey plover

A046a(NB) *Branta bernicla bernicla*: Dark-bellied brent goose

A132(NB) *Recurvirostra avosetta*: Pied avocet

A048(NB) *Tadorna tadorna*: Common shelduck

A054(NB) *Anas acuta*: Northern pintail

A143(NB) *Calidris canutus*: Red knot

A137(NB) *Charadrius hiaticula*: Ringed plover

Waterbird assemblage

A149(NB) *Calidris alpina alpina*: Dunlin

A162(NB) *Tringa totanus*: Common redshank

A195(B) *Sterna albifrons*: Little tern

Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA

A141(NB) *Pluvialis squatarola*: Grey plover

A132(NB) *Recurvirostra avosetta*: Pied avocet

A156(NB) *Limosa limosa islandica*: Black-tailed godwit

A143(NB) *Calidris canutus*: Red knot

A137(NB) *Charadrius hiaticula*: Ringed plover

A082(NB) *Circus cyaneus*: Hen harrier

Waterbird assemblage

A149(NB) *Calidris alpina alpina*: Dunlin

A162(NB) *Tringa totanus*: Common redshank

The Swale SPA

Breeding bird assemblage

A141(NB)* *Pluvialis squatarola*: Grey plover

A046a(NB) *Branta bernicla bernicla*: Dark-bellied brent goose

A137(NB)* *Charadrius hiaticula*: Ringed plover

Waterbird assemblage

A162(NB)* *Tringa totanus*: Common redshank

A149(NB) *Calidris alpina alpina*: Dunlin

Site location and links

Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA

Area (ha) **2251.31** Grid reference **TQ861845**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Essex; Southend-on-Sea

Site Conservation Objectives

[Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[Regulation 33/35 package link](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan

[n/a](#)

Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA

Area (ha) **4684.36** Grid reference **TQ862703**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Kent; Medway

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[Swale and Medway EMS](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[Regulation 33/35 package link](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan

[n/a](#)

Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA

Area (ha) **4838.94** Grid reference **TQ802795**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Kent; Medway; Thurrock

Site Conservation Objectives

[Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[Regulation 33/35 package link](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan

[n/a](#)

The Swale SPA

Area (ha) **6514.71** Grid reference **TQ976663**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Kent

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for The Swale SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[Swale and Medway EMS](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[Regulation 33/35 package link](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan

[n/a](#)

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) provides the main framework for managing the water environment throughout Europe. Under the WFD a management plan must be developed for each river basin district. The River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) include a summary of the measures needed for water dependent Natura 2000 sites to meet their conservation objectives. For the second round of RBMPs, SIPs are being used to capture the priorities and new measures required for water dependent habitats on Natura 2000 sites. SIP actions for non-water dependent sites/habitats do not form part of the RBMPs and associated consultation.

Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA

<i>River basin</i>	Anglian	Anglian RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Combined Essex	
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a	

Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA

<i>River basin</i>	Thames	Thames RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Medway	
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a	

Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA

<i>River basin</i>	Thames	Thames RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Medway	
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	GB106040024120, GB106040024230, GB30642407, GB30642424	

The Swale SPA

<i>River basin</i>	Thames	Thames RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	North Kent	
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	GB106040018560, GB30642956	

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA	Benfleet & Southend Marshes SSSI
Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA	Medway Estuary & Marshes SSSI
Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA	Mucking Flats & Marshes SSSI South Thames Estuary & Marshes SSSI
The Swale SPA	The Swale SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA	Leigh NNR
Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA	n/a
Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA	n/a
The Swale SPA	Elmley NNR The Swale NNR
Ramsar	
Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA	Benfleet and Southend Marshes
Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA	Medway Estuary & Marshes
Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA	Thames Estuary & Marshes
The Swale SPA	The Swale
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA	n/a
Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA	n/a
Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA	n/a
The Swale SPA	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
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www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

