Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 15 January 2025

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay

Designation date	30 March 2016
Site number	2555
Coordinates	50°56'55"N 00°50'18"E
Area	6 377,63 ha

Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 15 January 2025

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar Site is located on the south coast of England, on the border of East Sussex and Kent between Hastings and New Romney. It is a large area with a diverse coastal landscape comprising a number of habitats, which appear to be unrelated to each other. However, all of them exist today because coastal processes have formed and continue to shape a barrier of extensive shingle beaches and sand dunes across an area of intertidal mud and sand flats. The site includes the largest and most diverse area of shingle beach in the UK, with low-lying hollows in the shingle providing nationally important saline lagoons, natural freshwater pits and basin fens. Rivers draining the Weald to the north were diverted by the barrier beaches, creating a sheltered saltmarsh and mudflat environment, which was gradually in-filled by sedimentation, and then claimed on a piecemeal basis by man. Today this area is still fringed by important intertidal habitats, and contains relict areas of saltmarsh, extensive grazing marshes and reedbeds. Human activities have further modified the site, resulting in the creation of extensive areas of wetland habitat due to gravel extraction. As a whole, Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay is important for breeding, wintering and passage waterbirds, wetland plants, bryophytes and invertebrates, and natural or near-natural wetland habitats. In addition to the internationally important wetland habitats and species, the Ramsar Site and adjacent areas are also of national and international importance for a diversity of non-wetland habitats and species.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency: Natural England

Postal address: Suite D, Unex House, Bourges Boulevard, Peterborough, PE1 1NG

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Postal address: 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF, United Kingdom

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year: 2002

To year: 2024

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish): Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<4 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps: 0

Boundaries description

The Ramsar Site boundary is coincident with the boundaries of the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The seaward boundary in the south-west of the Ramsar Site extends to the village of Cliff End; south-west of this point the foreshore becomes rockier. The seaward boundary then follows the Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) north-east as far as the River Rother estuary. The boundary crosses the mouth of the Rother at the East Sussex administrative county boundary. The boundary then continues to follow the LAT; firstly east along Camber Sands, Broomhill Sands and Lydd Ranges up to the western edge of the nuclear power station compound; it then continues to follow the LAT from the eastern edge of the power station compound before rounding Dungeness foreland itself, and continuing north along Lade Sands and Romney Sands as far as the beach groyne at Littlestone (UK national grid reference TR08922669). The boundary then turns inland to the sea wall.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? Kent

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Rye in East Sussex

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes ○ No ◉

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 6377.63

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 6376.132

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	25 North Sea
EU biogeographic regionalization	Atlantic Region

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided	See Section 4.5
Other ecosystem services provided	See Section 4.5
Other reasons	The site qualifies under Criterion 1 because it contains representative, rare, or unique examples of natural or near-natural wetland types. These include: • Annual vegetation of drift lines and the coastal fringes of perennial vegetation of stony banks (Ramsar wetland type E – sand, shingle or pebble shores). Dungeness and Rye Harbour comprise the largest cuspate foreland (a low-lying triangular foreland) in Britain and form part of a system of shingle barrier beaches that can be traced 40 km from Fairlight in East Sussex to Hythe in Kent. This is ideal habitat for annual vegetation of drift lines, which occurs on naturally functioning shingle beaches. It is one of the scarcest habitats in the UK. The frontage at Rye Harbour and Dungeness is one of the most important areas in the country for this habitat, with approximately 15 km of shingle foreshore. The annual vegetation of drift lines grows on the seaward and landward sides of the beach ridge where waves deposit seed. The habitat grades into and overlaps with the more stable perennial vegetation of stony banks that grows on ridges inland from the beach. • Natural shingle wetlands: saline lagoons (Ramsar wetland type J – coastal brackish/saline lagoons), freshwater pits (Ramsar wetland type K – coastal freshwater lagoons) and basin fens (Ramsar wetland type U – non-forested peatlands). The vast shingle beach at Dungeness contains a number of natural wetlands, referred to as the Open and Fossil Pits, within Dungeness RSPB Reserve and Lydd Ranges. These wetlands have been subject to colonisation by vegetation and display stages of a classic hydroseral succession, from open water and marginal reed-swamp, through a form of marsh or fen, to grey willow Salix cinerea carr. Some of the pits have reached a stage in the hydroseral succession where they have little or no open water. Most have floating rafts of vegetation, varying in the degree to which they have stabilised. These floating rafts of vegetation are typical of the “Schwingmoor” type of basin fen, where layers of peat are separated by lenses of water. The pits contain a range of fen types from nutrient-rich to poor fen, with vegetation ranging from single species swamps to more complex communities. The oldest of the pits are now on the eroding south coast of Dungeness (in Lydd Ranges) and have reverted to saline conditions. They are typical, relatively stable, shingle percolation lagoons. There is at least one natural shingle wetland at Rye Harbour, which is much younger than those at Dungeness and still retains a brackish character. It complements the older examples at Dungeness by displaying an earlier stage in the evolution and succession of these unique natural wetlands.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information

The site qualifies under Criterion 2 because it supports several vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered species including:
• Warne's thread-moss Bryum warneum – a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species assessed as globally Vulnerable by the IUCN
• Water vole Arvicola amphibius – a declining UK BAP priority species that is also listed on Schedule 5 of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
• Aquatic warbler Acrocephalus paludicola – a declining UK BAP priority species assessed as globally Vulnerable by the IUCN
• Great crested newt Triturus cristatus – a UK BAP priority species that is listed on Schedule 5 of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive
• Medicinal leech Hirudo medicinalis – a rare globally Near Threatened species that is listed on Schedule 5 of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
• A ground beetle Omophron limbatum – an endangered (UK Red Data Book category 1) species
• Marsh mallow moth Hydraecia osseola hucherardi – an endangered (provisional Red Data Book category 1) and UK BAP priority species
• De Folin's lagoon snail Caecum amoricum – listed on Schedule 5 of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

☑ Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers: 34957

Start year: 2002

End year: 2007

Source of data: UK Wetland Bird Survey

Optional text box to provide further information: In the non-breeding season, the site regularly supports 34,957 individual waterbirds (5-year peak mean 2002/3-2006/7).

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Optional text box to provide further information: The site qualifies under Criterion 6 because it regularly supports 1.1% of the British population of Mute swan Cygnus olor and 1.2% of the NW and C European non-breeding population of Shoveler Spatula clypeata.

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
BRYOPHYTA / BRYOPSIDA	*Bryum warneum*	☑	☐	☐	VU	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Globally Vulnerable species, listed as a conservation priority in the UK

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Arvicola amphibius*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Listed on Schedule 5 of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Protected species in the UK, listed as a conservation priority
ANNELIDA / CLITELLATA	*Hirudo medicinalis*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	Listed on Schedule 5 of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; rare UK species (Red Data Book category 3)	Protected species in the UK, globally near threatened and rare UK species
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Hydraecia osseola hucherardi*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species; endangered UK species (provisional Red Data Book category 1)	Endangered species in the UK, listed as a conservation priority
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	*Omophron limbatum*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Endangered UK species (UK Red Data Book category 1)	Endangered species in the UK
CHORDATA / AMPHIBIA	*Triturus cristatus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Listed on Schedule 5 of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Annex II to the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC); UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Protected species in the UK, listed as a conservation priority in UK and EU
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
MOLLUSCA / GASTROPODA	*Caecum armoricum*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Listed on Schedule 5 of the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Protected species in the UK very limited in distribution
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Acrocephalus paludicola*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☑	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Globally vulnerable and declining species, listed as a conservation priority in the UK
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cygnus olor*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	348	2002/3–2006/7	1.1	LC	☐	☐		Site supports a nationally important (non-breeding) population of Mute swan Cygnus olor (1.1% of the British population)
CHORDATA / AVES	*Spatula clypeata*	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	485	2002/3–2006/7	1.2	LC	☐	☐		Site supports a regionally important (non-breeding) population of Shoveler Spatula clypeata (1.2% of the North Western and Central Europe wintering population)

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Between 2002/03 and 2006/07, the site supported 1.2% of the North Western and Central Europe (non-breeding) population of wintering Shoveler Spatula clypeata and 1.1% of the British population of Mute swans Cygnus olor (population counts are based on the wintering 5 year peak mean). Numbers of wintering waterbirds present on the site are available via the online data portal of the UK Wetland Bird Survey which reports the results of monthly monitoring surveys (see https://app.bto.org/webs-reporting/principal.jspand search for Dungeness and Rye Bay).

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar Site is located on the south coast of England, on the border of East Sussex and Kent between Hastings and New Romney. It is important for breeding, wintering and passage waterbirds, wetland plants, bryophytes and invertebrates, and natural or near-natural wetland habitats. In addition to the internationally important wetland habitats and species, the site and adjacent areas are also of national and international importance for a diversity of non-wetland habitats and species.

The Ramsar Site covers a large area with a diverse coastal landscape and wide range of habitats, which exist because coastal processes have formed and continue to shape a barrier of extensive shingle beaches and sand dunes across an area of intertidal mud and sand flats. It includes the largest and most diverse area of shingle beach in the UK, with low-lying hollows in the shingle providing nationally important saline lagoons, natural freshwater pits and basin fens. Rivers draining The Weald to the north were diverted by the barrier beaches, creating a sheltered saltmarsh and mudflat environment, which was gradually in-filled by sedimentation, and then claimed on a piecemeal basis by man. Human activities have further modified the site, resulting in the creation of extensive areas of wetland habitat due to gravel extraction. The area is still fringed by important intertidal habitats, and contains relict areas of saltmarsh, extensive grazing marshes and reedbeds. The extensive systems of botanically-rich ditches are important examples of lowland, slow-moving, eutrophic waters, with brackish influence near the sea and inland in large ditches or where peat deposits, which leach salt, lies close to the surface.

The site comprises the largest cuspate foreland in Britain and is one of five south-west facing beach systems along the coast of the English Channel. These all show contrasting characteristics in relation to sediment supply, erosion and orientation to the dominant wave direction. It is part of a system of barrier beaches that can be traced for 40 km and represents some 5,000 years of well documented coastal evolution and environmental change. Important features include eroding/accreting coastlines, exposed and buried shingle ridges, cuspate foreland development, and associated sediments, such as peat and sedimentary deposits located between freshwater marshes and other habitats. The major phases of foreland development are represented in a series of morphological and sediment zones each giving distinct and critical evidence.

Surface and subsurface shingle ridges are flint dominated. Ridges can be directly related to the development of the barrier beach, which probably began forming in the west, extending and evolving through beach recurves and destruction/rebuilding phases. Both current surface ridges and subsurface, or buried, ridges allow mapping of foreland evolution. Finer grained material (including peat) occurs between the barrier beaches, representing backwater environments. Palaeo-environmental information allows for detailed interpretation of environmental conditions at deposition and helps date coastal evolution. Interpretation of site evolution relies heavily on the relationship of the shingle ridges and associated deposits. The ability to correlate and date backwater and shingle ridge sequences gives key information on foreland development.

The site continues to respond to varied influences including reduction in sediment supply, coastal defence works, the construction of protective coastal walls at Rye Harbour (which keep the River Rother open, support economic activity at Rye Harbour and protect the adjacent nature reserve).

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores	Coastal sand dunes and vegetated shingle	0	2780	Unique
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	Mudflats	0	30	Representative
H: Intertidal marshes	Coastal saltmarsh	0	60	Representative
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons	Saline lagoons	0	85	Unique
K: Coastal freshwater lagoons	Freshwater lagoons	0	10	Rare

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools	Reedbeds; other marsh/swamp vegetation; freshwater pools & ponds	0	90	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Ts: Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes/ pools on inorganic soils	Coastal/floodplain grazing marsh; purple moor grass and rush pasture	0	3150	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands	Lowland fen	0	10	Rare

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Other non-wetland habitats – grassland, orchard, scrub, woodland, miscellaneous	160

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Sium latifolium*	Declining species and conservation priority in the UK, listed under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Crassula helmsii*	Potential
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*	Potential

4.3.2 - Animal species

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts
CHORDATA/AVES	*Branta canadensis*	Potential
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Mustela vison*	Actual (major impacts)

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

Natural coastal process active on the shingle coastline. Stormier winters are leading to greater movements of shingle on the coastline. The amount of rainfall directly influences water levels across the area across a range of water bodies including artificial lakes, natural pits and extensive ditch network.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 0

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 50

- Entire river basin ☐
- Upper part of river basin ☐
- Middle part of river basin ☐
- Lower part of river basin ☑
- More than one river basin ☐
- Not in river basin ☐
- Coastal ☑

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

River Rother and Tillingham lower river basin in East Sussex; adjoins the English Channel.

4.4.3 - Soil

- Mineral ☐
- Organic ☑
- No available information ☐

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Also extensive areas of mineral (shingle) substrates.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	
Usually permanent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	
Water inputs from precipitation	☑	No change
Water inputs from surface water	☑	No change
Water inputs from groundwater	☑	No change
Marine water	☑	No change

Water destination

Presence?	
Feeds groundwater	No change
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

The hydrology of the Dungeness Point is dominated by the rain-fed aquifer that lies under the peninsula.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site ☐

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site ☑

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site ☐

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually ☐

Sediment regime unknown ☐

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

The shingle coastline is subject to natural coastal processes – this underpins the internationally important wetland habitats associated with this shingle foreland.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5) ☐

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4) ☑

Alkaline (pH>7.4) ☐

Unknown ☐

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☑

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l) ☑

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☑

Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l) ☐

Unknown ☐

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☐

Mesotrophic ☐

Oligotrophic ☐

Dystrophic ☐

Unknown ☑

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☐

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☐

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☐

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☑

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

The Ramsar Site occupies a low-lying area on the coast. The surrounding land to the west and south rises and forms The Weald. To the north towards Hythe the landscape and ecological characteristics on the coast are broadly similar.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	High
Fresh water	Water for industry	High
Fresh water	Water for irrigated agriculture	High

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	High
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Storage and delivery of water as part of water supply systems for agriculture and industry	High
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	High
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	High
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	High
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Inspiration	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Contemporary cultural significance, including for arts and creative inspiration, and including existence values	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	High
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Pollination	Support for pollinators	High

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ○ Unknown ◉

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides 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) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) 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 ☐

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Public land (unspecified)	☑	☑
National/Federal government	☑	☐
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	☑	☑

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commercial (company)	☑	☑
Foundation/non-governmental organization/trust	☑	☑
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☑	☑

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

There is a wide range of ownership across the Ramsar Site: farmland across the grazing marsh is in private ownership; nature reserves owned and managed by nature conservation organisations/NGO and statutory bodies; and industry (nuclear, aggregate extraction), Ministry of Defence and the local municipal authority own extensive areas of the coast.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: Natural England, 9th Floor, International House, Dover Place, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1HU

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: Ken Obbard, Natural England Protected Sites Lead Advisor - Kent

Postal address: Natural England, Sussex and Kent Area Team, 9th Floor, International House, Dover Place, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1HU

E-mail address: Kenneth.Obbard@naturalengland.org.uk

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Housing and urban areas	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☑
Commercial and industrial areas	unknown impact	unknown impact	☐	☑
Tourism and recreation areas	Medium impact		☑	☑
Unspecified development	unknown impact	unknown impact	☐	☑

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Drainage	Medium impact	High impact	☐	☑
Water abstraction	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	☑
Dredging	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	☐
Water releases	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☑

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Annual and perennial non-timber crops	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☑

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Mining and quarrying	Low impact	High impact	☑	☑
Renewable energy	Low impact	High impact	☑	☑
Unspecified	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	☐

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Utility and service lines (e.g., pipelines)	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☑
Aircraft flight paths	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	☑

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	☑

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	☑
(Para)military activities	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	☐

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Fire and fire suppression	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	☐
Dams and water management/use	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☑

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	High impact	☑	☑

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Household sewage, urban waste water	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☑
Industrial and military effluents	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	☑
Garbage and solid waste	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☑
Air-borne pollutants	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☑

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	In the surrounding area
Habitat shifting and alteration		Low impact	☑	☑
Storms and flooding	Low impact	Low impact	☑	☐

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Dungeness Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and SAC	http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default .aspx?page=2046	partly

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Nature Reserve	Dungeness National Nature Reserve	http://www.dungeness-nnr.co.uk/	whole
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S2000533&SiteName=dungeness&countyCode=&responsiblePerson =	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Dungeness to Pett Levels Important Bird Area	http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=2460	partly
Important Plant Area	Dungeness and Rye Coastal Plain Important Plant Area	http://www.plantlife.org.uk/wild_plants/important_plant_areas/dungeness_rye_coastal_plain	partly

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☐

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☑

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☐

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Improvement of water quality	Partially implemented
Catchment management initiatives/controls	Partially implemented
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Partially implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Control of invasive alien plants	Partially implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of wastes	Partially implemented
Management of water abstraction/takes	Partially implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Partially implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Partially implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Partially implemented
Research	Partially implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ◉ No ○

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

Further information

The Dungeness Site Improvement Plans is available via: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6291480347934720?category=6149691318206464

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Plant species	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

BRIG (2007) Report on the Species and Habitat Review by the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG) to the UK Standing Committee, June 2007. JNCC, Peterborough.
Ferry, B. & Waters, S. (1985) Dungeness Ecology and Conservation. Focus on Nature Conservation No 12. Nature Conservancy Council.
Firth, F.M. (1984) Natural History of Romney Marsh. Meresborough Books.
Forbes, D. (1987) The Fifth Continent: The Story of Romney Marsh and its Surroundings. Shearwater Press.
Holloway, W. (2010) The History of Romney Marsh. Nabu Press.
IUCN Red List web pages: https://www.iucnredlist.org/
JNCC UK BAP priority species web page: https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap-priority-species
Long, A., Waller, M. and Plater, A.J. (2007) Dungeness and Romney Marsh: Barrier Dynamics and Marshland Evolution. Oxbow Books.
Long, A., Hipkin, S. and Clarke, H. (eds.) (2012) Romney Marsh: Coastal and Landscape Change Through the Ages. Oxford University School of Archaeology Monograph No. 56.
Natural England (2010) Departmental Brief: Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Proposed extensions to and change of name of the Dungeness to Pett Level Special Protection Area and a proposed new Ramsar site (May 2010). Natural England, Northminster House, Peterborough.
Stroud, D.A., Chambers, D., Cook, S., Buxton, N., Fraser, B., Clement, P., Lewis, P., Mclean, I., Baker, H. and Whitehead, S. (2001) The UK SPA network: its scope and content. Volumes 1-3. JNCC, Peterborough.
The Romney Marsh Website: https://romneymarshhistory.com/nature

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<1 file(s) uploaded>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

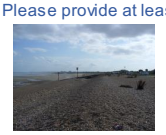
iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<no file available>

vi. other published literature
<2 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:


Dungeness and Rye Bay Ramsar Site: east coast inter-tidal and foreshore habitat (*Jo Dear, 2009*)


Dungeness and Rye Bay Ramsar Site: flooded gravel pits (*Jo Dear, 2009*)


Dungeness and Rye Bay Ramsar Site: Rye Bay intertidal sand and mud (*Jo Dear, 2009*)


Dungeness and Rye Bay Ramsar Site: River Rother intertidal habitats (*J Whitman, 2009*)


Dungeness and Rye Bay Ramsar Site: Rye Bay looking towards Hastings (*J Whitman, 2009*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation	2016-03-30