



The south east is defined by a mixture of tradition and opportunity. Thames sailing barges connect London to historic ports in Kent and Essex where traditional crafts are still upheld. The tidal Thames demonstrates the diversity of the south east within a small area. Recreation at Richmond and Kew is juxtaposed against the inaccessible banks within the City of London. Just beyond the mouth of the river, the 35 islands off the Essex coast offer a wealth of interest to tourists and local people alike.

Five world heritage sites and countless assets are intermixed with a myriad of marine leisure activities, 22 blue flag beaches, historic coastal settlements and in places, coastal deprivation.



Opportunities

- O1. opportunities for employment with social benefits, from affluent areas on the edge of towns and cities (Southend) with stable populations and high qualifications [1]
- O2. the highest number of people employed in ports and shipping [2] and the second highest in tourism [2]. DP World London Gateway Port will have social benefits through jobs and reinstating access for large ships
- O3. 42 bathing beaches (22 Blue Flag) with 90% achieving 'good', or above, status. Initiatives are in place to address the 'Poor' water quality of Clacton, and Walpole Bay, Margate [2]
- O4. the Paramount theme park will provide jobs, but may also cause adverse social impacts on sense of place [3]
- O5. the garden bridge development may provide access and health and wellbeing benefits [2]
- O6. London is the most visited British city by UK residents [2], creating social benefits (employment) and challenges (changing character)
- O7. recreational marinas in the south east marine plan area include a large number along the Thames estuary [2]

Challenges

- C1. 27% of Londoners live in poverty after housing costs are taken into account, compared with 20% in the rest of England. The cost of housing is an important factor in London's higher poverty rate [2]
- C2. access to the River Thames can be poor. New development in London needs to take account of riverside walks, cycle paths and public access to the water [4]
- C3. development pressures on heritage assets along Thames and Kent and Essex waterways and the setting of World Heritage Sites [5]
- C4. Conflict between promoting tourism and requirement to manage recreation within marine protected areas [6]



Evidence sources

- [1] Strategic Scoping Review
- [2] Sustainability appraisal report cards
- [3] MMO coastal internal issues workshop

- [4] Sub-national review: London area local plans
- [5] South east plan area issues
- [6] MMO Issues Workshop