

Ramsar sites

The UK Government signed the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) in 1973. The Ramsar Convention requires the conservation of wetlands, especially sites 'listed' (designated) under the Convention. Ramsar sites are areas which have been formally listed as Wetlands of International Importance by the Secretary of State. English Nature carries out consultations on the proposed listing with owners, occupiers and local authorities. English Nature then submits the case for listing to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Many sites qualify for both Ramsar site and SPA designations.

Details of the protection afforded to Ramsar sites are given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 9, Nature Conservation, HMSO 1994, and in the Government Policy Statement on Ramsar sites in England, issued in November 2000.

Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date listed
Abberton Reservoir	Essex	726.2	Listed	24.07.81
Alde-Ore Estuary	Suffolk	2546.99	Listed	04.10.96
Arun Valley	West Sussex	528.62	Listed	03.12.99
Avon Valley	Dorset, Hampshire	1385.1	Listed	02.02.98
Benfleet and Southend Marshes	Essex	2251.31	Listed	14.02.94
Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)	Essex	4395.15	Listed	12.05.95
Breydon Water	Norfolk	1202.94	Listed	29.03.96
Broadland	Norfolk, Suffolk	5488.61	Listed	21.09.94
Chesil Beach and the Fleet	Dorset	748.11	Listed	17.07.85
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Hampshire, West Sussex	5810.03	Listed	28.10.87
Chippenham Fen	Cambridgeshire	112.13	Listed	11.03.92
Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)	Essex	2701.43	Listed	28.07.94
Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)	Essex	1735.58	Listed	24.03.95
Deben Estuary	Suffolk	978.93	Listed	11.03.96
Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)	Essex	3127.23	Listed	24.03.94
Dersingham Bog	Norfolk	157.75	Listed	12.09.95
Dorset Heathlands	Dorset	6730.15	Listed	01.10.98
Duddon Estuary	Cumbria	6806.3	Listed	16.03.98
Esthwaite Water	Cumbria	137.4	Listed	07.11.91
Exe Estuary	Devon	2345.71	Listed	11.03.92
Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)	Essex	10932.95	Listed	04.10.96
Gibraltar Point	Lincolnshire	414.09	Listed	05.03.93
Hamford Water	Essex	2187.21	Listed	08.06.93
Holburn Lake and Moss	Northumberland	28.03	Listed	17.07.85

Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date listed
Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 1	East Riding of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire	15202.53	Listed	28.07.94
Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 2	East Riding of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire	2188.08	Proposed	
Irthinghead Mires	Cumbria, Northumberland	792.08	Listed	17.07.85
Isles of Scilly	Cornwall	401.64	Listed	10.08.01
Lee Valley	Essex, Greater London, Hertfordshire	447.87	Listed	22.09.00
Leighton Moss	Lancashire	128.61	Listed	28.11.85
Lindisfarne	Northumberland	3679.22	Listed	05.01.76
Lower Derwent Valley	East Riding of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire	915.45	Listed	08.06.93
Malham Tarn	North Yorkshire	286.26	Listed	28.10.93
Martin Mere	Lancashire	119.89	Listed	28.11.85
Medway Estuary and Marshes	Kent	4696.74	Listed	15.12.93
Mersey Estuary	Cheshire, Merseyside	5033.14	Listed	20.12.95
Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore	Cheshire, Merseyside	2078.23	Proposed	
Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1	Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire	510.88	Listed	09.05.94
Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2	Cheshire, Clwyd, Shropshire, Staffordshire	1588.24	Listed	02.02.97
Minsmere - Walberswick	Suffolk	2018.92	Listed	05.01.76
Morecambe Bay	Cumbria, Lancashire	37404.6	Listed	04.10.96
Nene Washes	Cambridgeshire	1517.49	Listed	05.03.93
New Forest	Hampshire, Wiltshire	28002.81	Listed	22.09.93
North Norfolk Coast	Norfolk	7862.39	Listed	05.01.76
Northumbria Coast	Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear	1107.98	Listed	02.02.00
Ouse Washes	Cambridgeshire, Norfolk	2469.08	Listed	05.01.76
Pagham Harbour	West Sussex	636.68	Listed	30.03.88
Pevensey Levels	East Sussex	3577.71	Listed	02.02.99
Poole Harbour	Dorset	2439.2	Listed	31.03.99
Portsmouth Harbour	Hampshire	1248.77	Listed	28.02.95
Redgrave and South Lopham Fens	Norfolk, Suffolk	127.09	Listed	15.02.91

Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date listed
Ribble and Alt Estuaries	Lancashire, Merseyside	13464.1	Listed	16.02.95
Rostherne Mere	Cheshire	79.76	Listed	24.07.81
Roydon Common	Norfolk	194.1	Listed	05.03.93
Rutland Water	Rutland	1360.34	Listed	04.10.91
Severn Estuary	Gloucestershire, Gwent, Somerset, South Glamorgan	24662.98	Listed	13.07.95
Solent and Southampton Water	Hampshire, Isle of Wight	5346.44	Listed	01.10.98
Somerset Levels and Moors	Somerset	6388.49	Listed	26.06.97
South West London Waterbodies	Berkshire, Greater London, Surrey	828.14	Listed	22.09.00
Stodmarsh	Kent	481.33	Listed	16.12.93
Stour and Orwell Estuaries	Essex, Suffolk	3323.62	Listed	13.07.94
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	Durham	1247.31	Listed	15.08.95
Thames Estuary and Marshes	Essex, Kent	5588.59	Listed	31.03.00
Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay	Kent	2169.23	Listed	28.07.94
The Dee Estuary	Cheshire, Flintshire, Merseyside	13084.85	Listed	17.07.85
The Swale	Kent	6514.71	Listed	31.08.82
The Wash	Lincolnshire, Norfolk	62211.66	Listed	30.03.88
Thursley and Ockley Bog	Surrey	265.24	Listed	14.02.94
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	Cumbria, Dumfries & Galloway	43636.73	Listed	30.11.92
Walmore Common	Gloucestershire	52.85	Listed	05.12.91
Wicken Fen	Cambridgeshire	254.39	Listed	12.09.95
Woodwalton Fen	Cambridgeshire	208.13	Listed	12.09.95