

Thames Gateway

The project

The area of land currently houses approximately 1.6 million people and measures approximately 80,000 hectares (ODPM, no date) and falls into the counties of Essex, Kent and London. The Thames gateway (Figure C.3) is a UK national priority for regeneration and growth. The redevelopment of this area could reduce pressure for greenfield housing and industrial development, as well as helping to mitigate the urban out migration from London (CPRE, 2004). The Gateway has the potential for providing at least 128,500 new homes and over 200,000 new jobs in the area by 2016.

Sustainability features

Development includes:

Inner Gateway: ongoing development in the finance and business district of Canary Wharf; recent regeneration project at the Greenwich Millennium Village (Figure C.4) and the Greenwich Peninsula.

Outer London Riverside: advanced manufacturing and engineering at Dagenham; high-density riverside settlement at Barking Reach; housing expansion at Thamesmead; regeneration of Woolwich town centre.

Central Gateway: new residential development at Thurrock to integrate with existing commercial development and urban areas at Grays and Lakeside; mixed-use development at North Dagenham; major business and residential development at Ebbsfleet (Figure C.5) with high-speed transport link to central London and Europe.

South-east Essex: regeneration of Basildon town centre; establishment of a regional

centre for culture, leisure and education, which will incorporate the University of Essex.

Medway Estuary: town expansion of Sittingbourne, which will incorporate high-tech industry at the Sittingbourne Research Centre; waterfront regeneration and residential development at Medway.

While the aim is to provide sustainable settlements, and much needed homes in the south-east, there have been some concerns. It is feared that there will be inadequate investment in transport infrastructure, and the reliance on 'planning gain' for the provision of social housing. Doubts are also expressed at the absence of skills needed to plan and design sustainable communities (Gardiner, 2004).

References and links

- Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) (2004) *Thames Gateway: Making Progress*, CPRE, London.
- East of England Regional Assembly, the Mayor of London and the South East England Regional Assembly (2004) *Growth and Regeneration in the Gateway: Interregional Planning Statement by the Thames Gateway Regional Planning Bodies*, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, London.
- English Partnerships (no date) Greenwich Peninsula: investing in the 21st Century, Sector Light Design.
- Gardiner, J. (2004) Concrete Bungle? *Housing Today*, No. 38, pp. 24–26.
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (2003) *Sustainable Communities: Building for The Future*, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, London.
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (no date) *Overview of the Thames Gateway*. Retrieved from the World Wide Web 22nd August 2004 http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_communities/documents/pdf/odpm_comm_pdf_030604.pdf

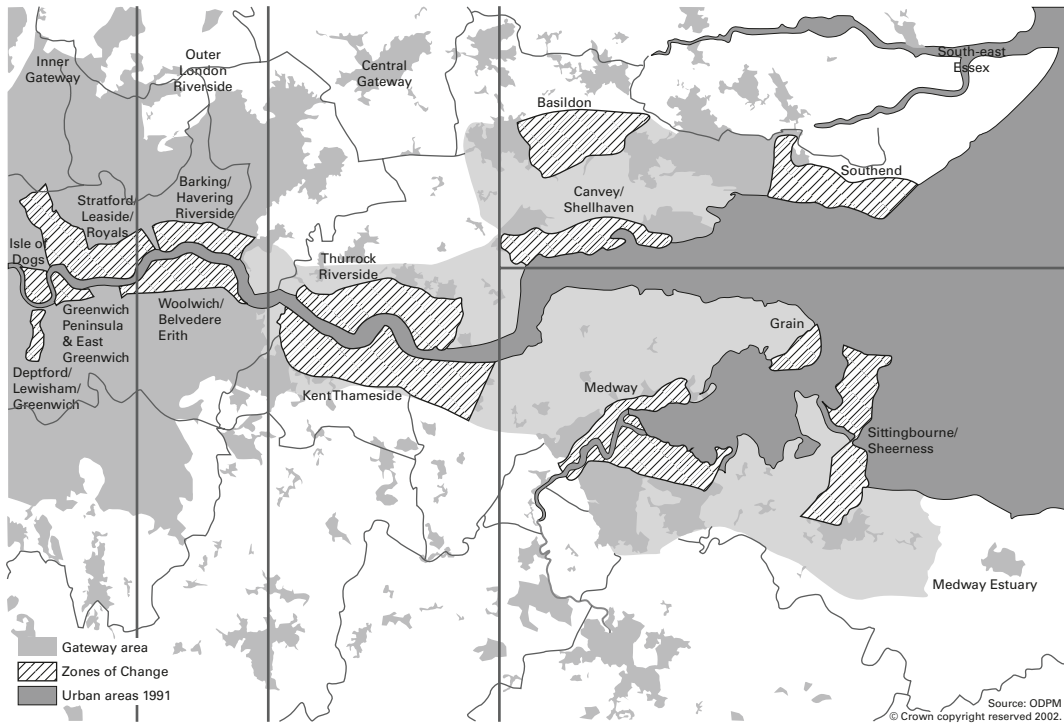


Figure C.3
Planned expansion along the River Thames estuary. (Source: after ODPM, 2003.)



Figure C.4
Greenwich Millennium Village, a flagship sustainable settlement. (Source: English Partnerships)



Figure C.5
Plans for Ebbsfleet sustainable urban extension. (Source: TBA.)