

River Thames

Rainham Marshes nature reserve

Here you can see barges made from reinforced concrete barges. They were used during World War II to create artificial harbours for the D-Day landings at Normandy, as part of the Mulberry Harbour project. Many different types of **gulls** can be seen in this area and look out for **comorants** with their wings held out, helping them to dry.

Look down the river towards the Dartford Crossing, where you can see various industries along the banks of the Thames. On the opposite bank you can see Erith Yacht Club and Anchor Bay. Look out for **wading birds** feeding on the mudflats.







Pause to admire the view. With the Thames behind you, you are now overlooking Wennington Marsh. Bright white **little egrets** will stand out on the scrapes below. Check the sky for hunting **birds of prey**. From here, you can appreciate the medieval grazing marsh landscape, the Visitor Centre and the villages of Wennington and Rainham.

During the spring and summer along the river wall path, you will see a wide array of wildflowers such as strikingly purple **tufted vetch**, and even the occasional orchid. This attracts many types of butterfly and bees, as well as a great number of other insects.

In spring as you approach the hill, you might hear a variety of sounds coming from the scrub land to your right as well as in the hedgerows by the path. We frequently see **linnets** and **goldfinches** in this area as well as occasional **whitethroats**. If you look out a bit further over the marsh, you can often hear **skylarks** as they sing from very high overhead.

Look out for seals resting on the far bank of the Thames. On your right, look out over Aveley Marsh and see the large flocks of wintering **lapwings** and **wigeons**, or in the summer, lapwings and skylarks displaying over the marshes.

Key

-  National cycle route 13
-  Cycle route
-  Railway line
-  RSPB Rainham Marshes visitor centre and toilets
-  Directions
-  Car park

1306