



# River Thames, Greenwich Peninsula

## The story so far

British estuaries have lost most of their natural habitats, particularly in towns and cities. In the Thames Estuary approximately only 2% of tidal banks are still natural. Well planned developments can help restore the soft edges of our rivers and estuaries for plants and wildlife to thrive. Through early master planning and pre-application discussions, Greenwich Peninsula overcame space constraints by creating valuable intertidal habitats (the area between high and low tide). These intertidal habitats are rare and valuable since they attract plants and wildlife adapted to salt environments and periodic inundation from the tides.

## The estuary was restored by

- Creating 1.7 km of set back flood defence walls and creating terraces and new sections of Thames Path
- Planting saltmarsh species e.g. sea club-rush, sea aster and estuarine common reeds
- Allowing native species to colonise

## How has it helped wildlife?

- Monitoring data shows sea bass and other fish species are using the terraces
- Invertebrates are benefiting from the gravel used on the terraces
- There are now larger areas of common reed and sea aster: traditional saltmarsh and estuarine plants

## How has it helped people?

- People now enjoy beautiful new views from the Thames Path

## How does it help manage flood risk and climate change?

- The new flood defence walls, terraces and plants work together to make space for water

## Partnership organisations

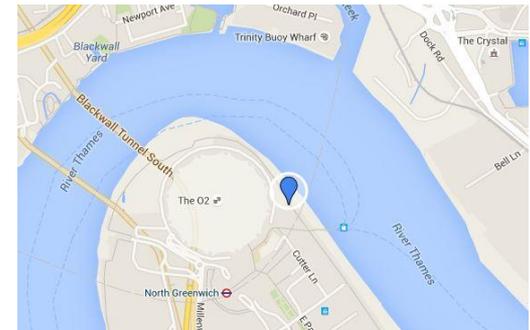
Knight Dragon developers, London Borough of Greenwich, Environment Agency



*AFTER* – The estuary flourishes with green as salt-loving plants thrive on its shoreline. © Clearwater Photography



*AFTER* – Tidal terracing next to the O2 Arena © Clearwater Photography



**Nearest Station: North Greenwich**