

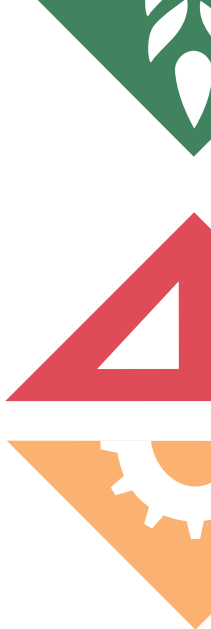
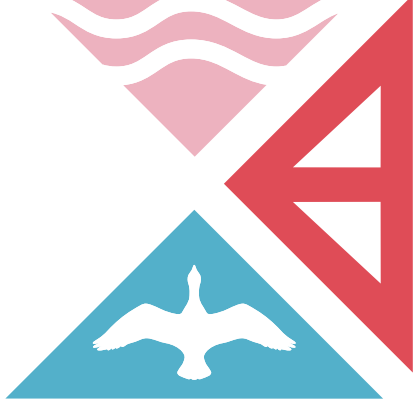
M A L D O N



**FAST CRAFT  
IN THE BLACKWATER ESTUARY**

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. It has been put together to help you understand a little of the geography of the area, why the byelaws exist, the areas they cover and how you can avoid falling foul of the authorities, but most importantly, it is here to KEEP YOU SAFE.

If you have any questions or queries about what's written down here or anything to do with byelaws, moorings, launch sites, tides, the coast or rivers, please contact the River Bailiff at Maldon District Council on 01621 875837 or [river.bailiff@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:river.bailiff@maldon.gov.uk).



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## THE ESTUARIES

The River Blackwater and River Colne are estuaries. This means they have an opening which leads straight out into the sea. In this case it's the North Sea, the shallowest of all the seas and possibly one of the coldest.

Situated north of the River Thames, these two rivers have a long history of trade, fishing, oysters and latterly, recreation. Since Roman times oyster production has played a part in the life of the Blackwater and Colne and continues to this day.

Sadly, trade has dropped off as more freight goes by road and restrictions on fishing have all but seen an end to the fleets of vessels that could once be seen on the waters around our coast.

Nowadays the emphasis is on leisure and recreation and, to meet the needs of the growing numbers of river users and their various ways of taking to the water some rules have to be applied to make sure the coast is as safe as can reasonably be expected.



**BE SAFE  
OUT THERE!**

# BLACKWATER AND COLNE ESTUARIES





## SPEED LIMIT BYELAW

The speed of vessels along the Rivers Blackwater and Colne is restricted to 8 knots (10 mph) within 250 metres of the beach.

So what does this mean to you?

From wherever you launch, keep your speed at lower than jogging speed until you leave the restricted area marked on the map in this booklet. The outer limit of the restricted area will be marked by large yellow 'egg' shaped buoys with a round top mark with '8 KNOTS' displayed on it.

The buoys that mark the restricted area are only there for six months of the year, but the byelaw can be enforced the whole year round.

**IF IN DOUBT KEEP YOUR SPEED DOWN** – You can't go wrong if you keep well away from mooring areas, other people in the water or other boats before you open the throttle.

**FACT:** 99% of byelaw prosecutions are as a result of incidents within 250 metres of where that person launched from.





## SAFE NAVIGATION

A 'Safe Navigation' byelaw exists across the whole of the coastal area, across all of the water in all of the rivers which protects you and everybody else from acts of carelessness by river users.

So what does this mean to you?

It means that you are protected by law from people who cause a nuisance, but it also means you have an obligation to act responsibly, be considerate and keep well clear of others. It may seem like fun at the time, but the other person might not be as confident on the water as you, and might actually be terrified!

**BE SAFE  
OUT THERE!**

# CODE OF CONDUCT

Here are a few DOs and DON'Ts that may make your recreation time on the water a little safer and more enjoyable.

## DO

- be safe and be safe to be around
- be considerate and keep an eye open for other river users
- observe speed limits and other byelaws
- wear your kill cord
- get insured
- keep away from saltmarsh and wildlife areas
- know your area
- carry safety equipment and wear a buoyancy aid
- keep well clear of moored or anchored boats

## DON'T

- exceed the speed limit
- give cause for the river bailiff or marine police to stop you
- be a nuisance to others or wildlife
- act like a wally
- go near sensitive or protected areas

If you have any doubts about anything you want to do on the water, please give me a call.

Thank you - River Bailiff



## TOURIST INFORMATION

[www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk](http://www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk)

If you are planning activities on or beside the water, staff at the Maldon Tourist Information Centre can advise you. Find out about trips on a Thames Sailing Barge, stand-up paddle boarding, river cruises, sailing, fishing, canoeing, etc !

Contact us at  
Wenlock Way, High Street, Maldon, Essex CM9 5AD  
T 01621 856503 | E [tic@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:tic@maldon.gov.uk) |  [@MaldonTIC](https://twitter.com/MaldonTIC)

Our opening hours are  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10:00 – 16:00  
and summer bank holidays



## **USEFUL NUMBERS**

**MALDON RIVER BAILIFF**  
01621 875837 | 07818 013723

[river.bailiff@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:river.bailiff@maldon.gov.uk)

**ESSEX POLICE MARINE UNIT**  
0300 333 4444

**POLICE non-emergency**  
101

**MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
01621 854477 | [maldon.gov.uk](http://maldon.gov.uk)

**MALDON TOURIST INFORMATION**  
01621 856503

**MCGA DOVER RESCUE CENTRE**  
01304 210008

**AMBULANCE / POLICE / COASTGUARD / RNLI – emergency**  
999

**MALDON PARK RANGERS**  
01621 852475 or 07771 935330



**MALDON DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**