

## EMERGENCIES

Always carry a mobile phone  
(in a buoyant water-proof case)

For life-threatening  
emergencies immediately call:

**Coastguard – 999 or 112**

The Coastguard will send the  
appropriate assistance. Be  
prepared to give your name,  
location and the nature of the  
emergency.

## INCIDENTS

For navigational issues:

**London VTS – 01474 569311**

or on VHF channel 68  
or via the PLA smartphone app

For non-emergencies:

**Essex Police Marine unit  
01621 782121**

**Kent Police  
101**

Guidance document

[www.pla.co.uk](http://www.pla.co.uk) • [www.boatingonthethames.co.uk](http://www.boatingonthethames.co.uk)

PORT OF  
LONDON  
AUTHORITY

# Thames Code for Personal Water Craft

First edition, 2019

## THE GOLDEN RULES



## SAFETY

Without proper training, using a Personal Water Craft (e.g. Jet Ski) can be dangerous. Machinery failure is the main cause of incidents, leaving users vulnerable in a potentially busy waterway. There are also risks from the effects of cold water, currents, tides and exhaustion.

### How to stay safe:

Always wear an appropriate Personal Flotation Device (PFD). An appropriate, well-fitted and well-maintained buoyancy aid or life jacket could save your life > [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)

Get the right training > [www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)

Learn basic engine maintenance

Keep within your level of ability and experience

Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return

Never go afloat under the influence of alcohol or drugs

For further safety advice visit > [rni.org/safety](http://rni.org/safety)

RESPECT  
THE WATER



### Safety kit list

Suitable clothing

Appropriate PFD

Goggles

Kill cord

Foot protection

Gloves

Whistle

Navigation lights

Torch

First aid kit

Full tank of fuel/oil

Fire extinguisher

Flare pack

(VHF Radio)

Rope

Anchor

Tool kit

## DO

Only launch, moor and land from  
Authorised Launch Sites

Read and observe the Byelaws  
and rules posted at launch sites

Ensure you have adequate public  
liability insurance and ID

Register with Datatag and clearly  
display your "Datatag Visible ID"

Carry the correct safety equipment  
when afloat

Show consideration to other water  
users, particularly with your wake

Consider joining a local PWC club

Give ships a wide berth and always  
give way to larger vessels

## DON'T

Use a PWC upriver of  
**Lower Hope Point** or enter  
restricted areas (see diagram)

Exceed 8 knots within 200m  
of a berth, jetty, pier, public  
beach, bathing place or  
residential property

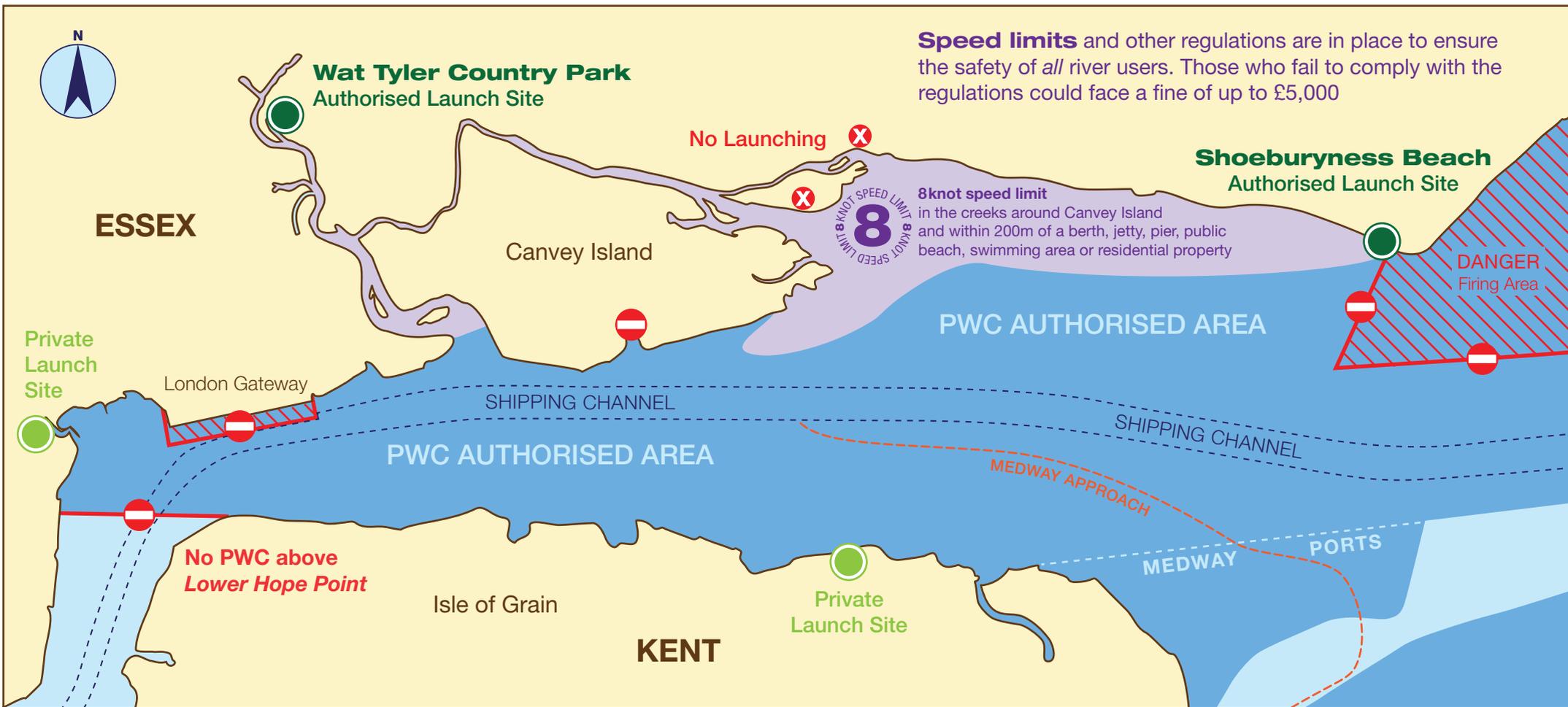
Ride the bow waves of ships  
or cross close ahead of them

Generate wake when passing  
through moorings

Underestimate the speed  
ships are travelling or  
the space they need to  
manoeuvre

Go afloat in the dark or fog

**ALWAYS KEEP A GOOD LOOKOUT**



### FURTHER ADVICE

PLA ..... 01474 562200  
 MCA ..... 02380 329100  
 RNLI ..... 0845 1226999  
 RYA ..... 0845 3450326  
 Datatag ..... 0845 0700440  
 EA ..... 03708 506506  
 RSPB ..... 01273 775333



Scan for the PLA  
**Tidal Thames**  
 smartphone app

### THE ENVIRONMENT

The Thames Estuary supports some of the most ecologically valuable habitats in the UK, many of which have been legally designated for their wildlife value.

In order to minimise the impact on the environment from PWC users, please follow these simple rules:

It is prohibited to launch, moor or land PWCs from anywhere except **Authorised Launch Sites** (see diagram above)

Also do not land on salt marsh, mudflats or sandbanks. Maintain a good distance from salt marsh and exposed mudflats, avoiding shallow waters or the riverbed where submerged vegetation could be disturbed.

**Wildlife:** Do not approach any wildlife, in the water or on land. As a general rule, never get closer than 100m (or 200m if another boat is in the vicinity). If encounters with wildlife are unavoidable, maintain a steady direction and a slow speed away from the wildlife, creating no wake.

**Pollution:** Do not decant petrol or use chemical treatments in the water and do not drop litter into the river or onto the foreshore.