

Powerhouses, holiday cottages
Superstores and fossil forests
Pumping stations, dumping grounds
Spoil heaps and water towers.

The Brimp, the Drift
The Cant, the Shant
The Warp, the Nore
The Gulph, the Flood;
Fleets, creeks, guts and gores
Bights, banks, hithes and havens
Dozens of Hundreds
And the Lathe of Scray.

Pillboxes, tank traps
Catalytic crackers and flare stacks
Martello towers, Maunsell forts
Coldharbours and counterwalls.

Shipwash, sheepwashes
Slipways and the Sledway
The silting, shifting,
And switching of swatchways;
Defences on ramparts
And wet fences on flood plains
Embankments around innings
And sluices out to saltings.

Long Reach to Oaze Deep
Halfway Road to Middle Ground
Small Gains, Great Lines
The tide turns, the Hope rises.

The Yantlet, the Darent;
The leak of the Beam
The creep of the Cray
The flow of the Roding
And swell of the Swale.

Saltworks, seamarks
Steel works, paper plants
Civic centres, rifle ranges
Fingerposts and tide gauges.

Jubilee Marsh, Maize Maze
Cockle Row and Bawley Bay
Harty Ferry, Bee Ness Jetty
Bread and Cheese Hill, Humble Bee Creek.

Pilot boats and lighthouses
Beacons leading, illuminations beckoning
To leisure centres and pleasure beaches;
The 'Wall of Fame', 'Eternal Flame'
Upnor Cupola and
Capel Fleet Raptor Viewpoint;
The Fruit Belt, Olympic Fringe
Beckton Alps, 'Angel of the South'
Britannia Village, Millennium Mills
Pier of the Year and the Lantern of Kent;
The Wintergarden, Water Circus
Pleasant Terrace, Prospect Villas
The Lower Hope fills, and the bell buoy rings.

Landing stages, travelling gantries
Fairways, conveyers
Causeways and crossings;
Fastrack at Dartford
An influx to Ebbsfleet
Mulberry Harbour barges
And the Kentish Flats Wind Farm;
Paraffin Station, Telegraph Hill
Cnuts Canal and the Knock John Channel
Rhino Ramps, and pilot pick-up points
At the Spit, Sunk and Warp
The East Atlantic migratory flyway
And the Greenway
Over the Northern Outfall;
Lines of pylons, lengths of promenades
Substations and interchanges
But no runway on the Broomway
And no mast upon St Margarets
No road to Shade House
No way through Stray Marshes.

Ant hills, tank farms
Boatyards and yacht clubs
Workshops, business parks
Builders' centres and breakers' yards.

Projections of spits
And estuarine bluffs
Ballast pits and mussel beds
Mudpans and gutters;
Great Crested Newts in bomb crater ponds
And natural habitats in gravel extractions
Chalk quarries, clay basins
Abandoned forts and empty batteries.

A great cascade of wave-breaking blocks
Warning buoys of riverbed wrecks
A flood barrier footing on Fobbing Horse
And high rise flats on submarine berths.

Pudding Pan, Shivering Sand
Kentish Knock, Poynter's Point
London Loop and Lappel Bank;
Mucking Bight, Dagenham Breach
Grays Gorge, Gog's Berth
Bugsby's Reach and Harry's Bench.

Drainage channels, mud runnels
Irrigation ditches and buffer strips
Curtain walling, shingle ridging
Rickety jetties and smugglers' tunnels.

Scrapsgate, Mudchute
Hook Spit, Knob Gat
Sunk Head, Skull Site
Dung Wharf, Tongue Sand;
Great Shellbanks and the Shingles shoals
Knock, Knock at the Ness
'Bang, bang' by the boom:
Gunnery practice
At the Shoebury sandbanks.

The Dartford Tunnel, the Barking Barrier
Ingress Abbey, Fort Borstal
Devil's Elbow or Cupid's Corner;
Detention centres, self-storage
Demolition sites and memorial halls
Isolation hospitals, visitor centres
Interpretation boards and danger areas;
Bunkers, bird hides
Barracks and caravan sites
Welcome halls to shopping malls
But no-one's allowed
On New England Island.

Clark's Hard, Clock Bank
Crow Stone, Sunk Sand
Black Stakes, Rat's Bay
Slag Slope and Wallop Stone;
The half-blocked Bull Nose
And a hulk at Horrid Hill
Bedlams Bottom mudflats by Bobbing
And Parting Gut
Breaking off towards Fobbing.

Rough grazing, live firing
Environment Agency obligatory signage
Of slippery surfaces,
Sudden drops, and strong currents
Warnings of cross winds to Sheppey
And listings of losses at Great Lines;
A strong ripple noted at Drill Stone
And a broken beacon, at the Point of Lower Hope.

Navigating the Guzzard
Evading the Girdler,
The Gabbards and Galloper;
Shallow soundings
Grounds for foundering
And to the Goodwin Sands,
A bad wind sends.

Breakneck Hill, Spitend Hide
Slayhills Marsh, Slaughterhouse Point
Hangmans Wood and Deadmans Island;
There's lulls in levels as the Lower Hope falls
From Hole Haven,
Hidden Pool to Hollowshore
And nothing to drink,
Now the Tidal Basin Tavern is dry.

Twydall Pit, Thistle Hill
Yantlet Flats and Maplin Sands
Hadleigh Ray, Fiddlers Reach
South-east Mouse, the Roach, the Crouch
The Bata Estate, the Saxon Shore Way
Watermen's Stone and Lambarde's Wall
The hamlet of Allhallows,
The Four Fathoms Channel
Peculiar People's Chapel
And Oddfellows Hall.

Bird lagoons, boat marinas
Wet depressions and water features;
Trickle irrigation, wave recorders
A motorboat museum and artificial beaches.

Thanet sands, valley gravels
London clay and Blackheath pebble beds;
Drunken Dock filled, Poplar Gut covered
Blackwall Rock and Whiting Shoal shovelled
Wakering Haven erased by reclamation
But the Dagenham Idol and Swanscombe Man
Recovered in estuary excavations.

Folly Fort fending off
The dumping of Medway dredgings;
Waste workings at Beckton
And Crossness at Thamesmead
London's rubbish messing up Mucking
But sludge boats no longer slinking to Black Deep.

Country parks on landfill sites
And apartment blocks on concrete plants;
The exit of Occidental Oil
Shelving of Maplin Seaport
Blocking of the Thames Barrage
But latest Gateway planning passed.

Four Wents, Twin Tumps
Two Tree Causeway, One Tree Hill;
Fishermans Gat, Luddenham Gut
Bowaters Bollock and Guncotton Folly
Chafford Hundred, Lakeside Thurrock
Ocelot Docks and Botany Quarry.

*Rainbow Lane to the Lower Hope leads
And to the World's End, the Lower Hope sends.
There's holes in fences
Entries to fortresses
Batterings of buttresses
And breaches of breakwaters.*

*Water Lane, Marine Parade
Ripple Road, Atlantis Close
The bell buoy tolls,
And the Hope overflows.*