

Ramsar Citation

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

Name: Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast

Unitary Authority/County: Durham County Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

Status of Ramsar site: Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast was first designated as a Ramsar site on 15 August 1995. On 31 March 2000, the Ramsar site was extended to include additional areas and intertidal habitats. The Ramsar site has been extended in 2020 to include additional terrestrial areas within the Tees estuary and along the foreshore to the north and south because of the site's international importance for waterbirds.

Site description: The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar site is a wetland of international importance, comprising intertidal sand and mudflats, rocky shore, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and sand dunes. Large numbers of waterbirds feed and roost on the site in winter and during passage periods. In addition, the site is internationally important for its populations of red knot *Calidris canutus*, common redshank *Tringa totanus* and Sandwich tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*.

Boundary of Ramsar site: The original Ramsar site boundary included parts of Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SSSI. For the original and extended Ramsar boundary please refer to the site map.

The extended area includes additional terrestrial wet grassland, saltmarsh, deep and shallow pools and intertidal areas for breeding and non-breeding birds.

Size of Ramsar site: 2,085.21 ha.

The area of the original site was 942.56 ha. The extension in 2000 added an area of 304.75 ha, giving a revised Ramsar site area of 1247.31 ha. This latter figure has been re-measured in 2017 as 1250.95 ha. The 2020 extension adds an area of 834.26 ha to the site.

International importance of Ramsar site: The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar site is a Wetland of International Importance because:

- a) The site qualifies under Ramsar **criterion 5** as it is regularly used by over 20,000 waterbirds in any season:

Count (period)	Season	Average number of individuals
2011/12-2015/16	Wintering	26,786 ¹

- b) The site qualifies under **criterion 6** as it is regularly used by 1% or more of the biogeographic populations of the following bird species, in any season:

Species	Count (period)	% of population
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¹ Data from; WeBs 2011/12-2015/16

Red knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	5,509 individuals ² (1991/92-1995/96)	1.6% NE Canada/ Greenland/Iceland/UK population ³
Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	1,648 individuals ⁴ (1987-1991)	1.1% East Atlantic population ⁵
Sandwich tern <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	1,900 individuals ⁶ (1988-1992)	4.3% GB ⁷

Non-qualifying species of interest: The site supports a nationally important breeding population of little terns *Sternula albifrons* (4.3% GB, 2010-2014), common terns *Sterna hirundo* (4.0% GB, 2010-2014) and pied avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (1.2% GB, 2010-2014), and of non-breeding ruff *Calidris pugnax* (2.4% GB, 2011-2016). The assemblage includes a wide range of breeding, wintering and passage waterbird species, including those of European importance described above, as well as numbers exceeding 1% of the GB non-breeding populations of gadwall *Mareca strepera*, northern shoveler *Spatula clypeata* and sanderling *Calidris alba*. Additionally, Eurasian wigeon *Mareca penelope*, northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, herring gull *Larus argentatus* and black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* are also present in sufficient numbers to warrant their being listed as a major component species of the assemblage, as their numbers exceed 2,000 individuals (10% of the minimum qualifying assemblage of 20,000 individuals). The site supports a rich assemblage of invertebrates, including the following seven Red Data Book species: *Pherbellia grisescens*, *Thereva valida*, *Longitarsus nigerrimus*, *Dryops nitidulus*, *Macrolea mutica*, *Philonthus dimidiatipennis* and *Trichohydrobius suturalis*.

Principal bird data sources:

AEWA – African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (2012). *Report on the Conservation Status of Migratory Waterbirds in the Agreement Area. Fifth Edition.* AEWA, Bonn

Carter 1993 Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Departmental Brief. JNCC, Peterborough.

Cleveland Birds Reports (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013). Teesmouth Bird Club.

Cleveland Industry Nature Conservation Association little tern monitoring data 1995 - 2013

Musgrove, M., Aebischer, N., Eaton, M., Hearn, R., Newson, S., Noble, D., Parsons M., Risely K., & Stroud, D. 2013 Population estimates of birds in Great Britain and the United Kingdom. *British Birds* 106: 64–100

Wetland Bird Survey reports (2011/12-2015/16), British Trust for Ornithology.

Wetlands International 2012. *Waterbird Population Estimates, Fifth Edition.* Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

² Data from: SPA citation March 2000 version 0.4; recent average of 1,193 individuals (WeBS: 2009/10-2013/14) representing 0.3% of NE Canada & Greenland/Western Europe population (AEWA 2012)

³ Data from: Wetlands International 2012; 345,000 individuals 1982-1992

⁴ Data from: Carter 1993, SPA Departmental Brief; recent average of 1,156 individuals (WeBS: 2009/10-2013/14) representing 0.4% of the Iceland & Faroes/Western Europe population (AEWA 2012).

⁵ Data from: Carter 1993, SPA Departmental Brief

⁶ Data from: Carter 1993, SPA Departmental Brief; recent average of 149 individuals (WeBS: 2009/10-2013/14) representing 0.3% of GB

⁷ Data from: Carter 1993, SPA Departmental Brief. Note: this passage population of 1,900 individuals was expressed as equating to 6.8% of the GB breeding population of Sandwich terns (14,000 pairs) in the Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for this site.