

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

Name: Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast (Extended area)

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

Consultation proposal: The original Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar site was classified on 15 August 1995; an extension to that area has been recommended to enlarge the area within the Tees Estuary and along part of the foreshore to the north because of the site's international importance.

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 summer Little Terns breed on sandy beaches within the site.

Boundary of Ramsar site: The original Ramsar site boundary includes all or parts of Seal Sands SSSI; Seaton Dunes and Common SSSI; Cowpen Marsh SSSI; Redcar Rocks SSSI; and South Gare and Coatham Sands SSSI. The extended area is within or coincident with the above SSSI boundaries and will also include parts of Durham Coast SSSI and all of Tees and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands SSSI. For boundary of extended Ramsar site see map.

Size of Ramsar site: The extension covers an area of 304.75 ha, giving a revised Ramsar site area of 1247.31 ha.

International importance of Ramsar site: The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast is a wetland of international importance because:

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

Period	Season	Population
1991/92 - 1995/96	Wintering	21,312 individuals

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

Waterfowl species	5 year peak mean	% of biogeographic population
Knot <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i>	5,509 individuals - wintering (1991/92 - 1995/96)	1.6% NE Can/Grl/Iceland/NW Eur
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>	1,648 individuals - passage (1987 - 1991)	1.1% Eastern Atlantic (wintering)
Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	1,900 individuals - passage (1988 - 1992)	1.3% Western Europe/Western Africa

Non-qualifying species of interest: The site supports a nationally important breeding population of Little Terns *Sterna albifrons* (1.7% GB, 1995 - 1998). In winter the site holds nationally important populations of Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (1.1% GB, 1993/94 - 1997/98), Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (1.4% GB, 1993/94 - 1997/98), Teal *Anas crecca* (1.3% GB, 1987/88 - 1991/92), Shoveler *Anas clypeata* (1.3% GB, 1991/92 - 1995/96) and Sanderling *Calidris alba* (2.6% GB, 1993/94 - 1997/98).

Status of Ramsar site:

- i) Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast was designated as a Ramsar site on 15 August 1995.
- ii) Consultations commenced on the proposal to extend the site on 29 September 1999.
- iii) The extended area of Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar site was designated on 31 March 2000.