

89. Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast

Geographical Coordinates: 54°38'N 1°11'W **Area:** 942ha

Location: About 5km north-northeast of the city of Middlesbrough, in the county of Cleveland, on the coast of northeast England.

Date of Ramsar Designation: 15 August 1995

Other International Designations: European Union Special Protection Area

National Designations: Site of special scientific interest; Teesmouth National Nature Reserve^P

Principal Features: An estuarine complex of intertidal sand and mudflats, rocky shore, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and sand dunes. 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 *Trichohydriobius suturalis*. The estuary is also an important spring and/or autumn staging area for migratory waterbirds. During the five year period 1987/88 to 1991/92, the following species occurred in nationally important numbers: *Sterna sandvicensis*, *Tringa totanus*, *Charadrius hiaticula* and *Calidris alba*. The site regularly supports over 20,000 waterbirds in winter. The five year peak mean for the period 1987/88 to 1991/92 was 20,799 birds, comprising 14,982 waders and 5,817 wildfowl. These included internationally important numbers of *Calidris canutus* (3,574). The site also supports nationally important wintering numbers of *Tadorna tadorna*, *Anas crecca*, *Calidris alba* and *Tringa totanus*. A nationally important breeding colony of *Sterna albifrons* held an average of 37 pairs in the period 1987 to 1991. (Criteria 2a,2c,3a,3c).

Conservation Issues: Land uses at the site include habitat/nature conservation and grazing. A total of 443ha of the site are already covered by approved management plans, including the Teesmouth National Nature Reserve. Both an Estuary Management Plan and Shoreline Management Plan are in preparation.