



West Winch Housing Access Road

Habitats Regulations Assessment: Appendix 3: National Network and Ramsar sites Information

Author: WSP

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Site Name	Site Size (Ha)	Summary of reasons for designation summarised on Natura 2000 Standard Data Form or Ramsar Information Sheet
The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC	107,718	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time ■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide ■ 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays ■ 1170 Reefs ■ 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand ■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) ■ H1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) ■ 1150 Coastal lagoons (* Priority feature) <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1365 Harbour Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> <p>The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC citation. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5068730392379392</p>

Site Name	Site Size (Ha)	Summary of reasons for designation summarised on Natura 2000 Standard Data Form or Ramsar Information Sheet
The Wash SPA	62,044	<p>This site qualifies under Article 4(1) as it supports the following species:</p> <p>Breeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> - 30 pairs (2% of the British population) ■ Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> - 220 pairs (2%); <p>Over winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> – 130 individuals (3%) <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4(2) as an internationally important wetland by supporting in winter an average of 163,000 waders and also 51,000 wildfowl; and because it supports on average the following internationally important numbers of individual species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 17,000 Dark-bellied Brent Geese <i>Branta bernicla</i> (12% of the European wintering population), ■ 7,300 Pink-footed Geese <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> (7%), ■ 16,000 Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (12%), ■ 1,700 Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> (2%), ■ 24,000 Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (3%), ■ 5,500 Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (7%), ■ 500 Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> (3%), ■ 7,500 Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> (21%), ■ 29,000 Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> (1%), ■ 8,200 Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> (1%), ■ 3,700 Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> (1%), ■ 4,331 Common Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> (5%), and ■ 980 Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> (2%). <p>In addition, the site qualifies because of its national importance to other migratory birds.</p> <p>Over Winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3,900 Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> (2% of the GB wintering population), ■ 220 Common Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> (1%), ■ 130 Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> (3%), ■ 830 Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> (2%), and ■ 260 Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> (6%). <p>The salt-marshes support a diverse breeding bird population, including over 4,000 pairs of Black-headed Gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i> (2%), Common Shelduck and numerous wader species. Breeding Redshank occur at exceptionally high densities, and the breeding population of this species is undoubtedly of national importance although its exact size is still being assessed.</p> <p>The Wash SAC citation. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5834437967216640</p>

Site Name	Site Size (Ha)	Summary of reasons for designation summarised on Natura 2000 Standard Data Form or Ramsar Information Sheet
The Wash Ramsar	62,212	<p>The Wash is the largest estuarine system in Britain. It is fed by the rivers Witham, Welland, Nene and Great Ouse. There are extensive saltmarshes, intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow waters and deep channels. It is the most important staging post and over-wintering site for migrant wildfowl and wading birds in eastern England. It supports a valuable commercial fishery for shellfish and also an important nursery area for flatfish. It holds one of the North Sea's largest breeding populations of Common Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> and some Grey Seals <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>. The sublittoral area supports a number of different marine communities including colonies of the Reef-building Polychaete Worm <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Wash is a large shallow bay comprising very extensive saltmarshes, major intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow water and deep channels. It is the largest estuarine system in Britain. <p>Ramsar criterion 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Qualifies because of the inter-relationship between its various components including saltmarshes, intertidal sand and mud flats and the estuarine waters. The saltmarshes and the plankton in the estuarine water provide a primary source of organic material which, together with other organic matter, forms the basis for the high productivity of the estuary. <p>Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 292,541 waterfowl (5-year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) <p>Ramsar criterion 6 Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Common Redshank (breeding) <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> - 6,373 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Eurasian Curlew (wintering) <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> (Europe) (breeding) - 9,438 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus</i> (Europe & NW Africa) (wintering) - 15,616 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (E Atlantic/W Africa) (wintering) - 13,129 individuals, representing an average of 5.2% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak) ■ Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> (W & Southern Africa) (wintering) - 68,987 individuals, representing an average of 15.3% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> (wintering) (Eastern Atlantic) - 3,505 individuals, representing an average of 2.9% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i> (breeding) (NE Canada, Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa) - 888 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3).

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The Wash Ramsar	62,212	<p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i> (W Palearctic) - 16,546 individuals, representing an average of 13.7% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (NW Europe) - 9,746 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> - 20,861 individuals, representing an average of 10.4% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (W Siberia/W Europe) - 36,600 individuals, representing an average of 2.7% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> (Greenland, Iceland/UK) - 29,099 individuals, representing an average of 10.7% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Northern Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> (NW Europe) - 431 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3). <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland/W Europe) - 6,849 individuals, representing an average of 14.5% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northwest Africa) - 1,500 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3). <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria altifrons</i> (Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic) - 22,033 individuals, representing an average of 2.3% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) ■ Northern Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (Europe - breeding) - 46,422 individuals, representing an average of 2.3% of the population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3). <p>The Wash Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS). Available at: https://rsis.ramsar.org/RISapp/files/RISrep/GB395RIS.pdf.</p>