



European Marine Site Coastal Code



Helping to keep your coast beautiful

Welcome to the Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast

The Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast is a unique and stunning stretch of the North East coast.

Historically, vast intertidal mudflats and marshes extended over thousands of hectares on both sides of the Tees Estuary. Today industry is the dominant feature in the landscape including heavy engineering, petrochemicals, power generation and steel.



Sunrise over the North Tees

The area is also highly valued for its plants, animals and birds. This is an internationally important area for wildlife: the remaining mudflats, saltmarshes and rocky shore have been designated a European Marine Site because of their importance for migratory birds.

Sand dunes and related habitats are remarkably rich in wildlife supporting a wealth of flora and fauna. Plants of interest include Lyme grass, prickly saltwort and several orchids including pyramidal and bee orchid. Invertebrates found at the site include a number of species of butterfly, uncommon beetles, moths and rare spiders.

Local people have agreed that a series of voluntary codes of conduct could help safeguard wildlife, while allowing locals and visitors to enjoy their coastal activities.

Representatives of each activity worked with the Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast European Marine Site Project to write the Coastal Codes.



Feeding oystercatchers



Bee orchid, North Tees

Coatham sand dunes

The Seashore Code

You can help keep our coast looking beautiful, clean and full of wildlife by following these ten simple rules:

1. Please keep seashore activities away from birds' summer breeding grounds between 1st April and 1st August and winter roosts and feeding areas between 1st October and 1st April.
2. In particular avoid putting birds to flight during cold spells since at these times they must feed whenever possible and conserve their energy.
3. Please keep your distance from seals. They may appear tame but are easily disturbed.
4. Sand dunes and salt marshes are particularly sensitive environments and are vulnerable to erosion - please keep to established footpaths.
5. Tread carefully on the rocky shore to minimise impacts on coastal wildlife.
6. Check any public notices and observe local byelaws as they are there for your safety and information.
7. Park vehicles responsibly. Please do not block access, rights of way or gates and use designated car parks where possible.
8. Please take all your litter home.
9. Respect the rights of all other users.
10. Take only photographs... leave only footprints.



Oystercatcher

Sea Angling and Bait Collection

Keep your distance

When angling, digging for bait and attending crab shelters please avoid putting birds to flight by:

- Keeping your distance from flocks of birds.
- Keeping your dog under close control if you have brought it with you.

Respect the environment

Please help preserve the marine environment by:

- Following the North Eastern IFCA "Intertidal Code of Conduct" and "Minimum Fish and Shellfish Size" guidelines (see contact list).

A North Eastern IFCA shellfish permit is required for the collection of Edible Crab, Velvet Crab, Lobster and Whelk within the NEIFCA district.

A coast for all

Please keep the environment safe for you, other users and wildlife by:

- Using a line and shock leader of appropriate breaking strain for safety and to avoid lost tackle.
- Taking home all waste, litter and old tackle.
- Cutting line into short lengths before disposal in bins provided or at home.

The Sea Angling and Bait Collection Code was drawn up in agreement with the Northern Federation of Sea Angling Societies.



Recreational anglers may gather bait for their personal use but not for sale or reward

By helping to conserve bait stocks you are ensuring a continuous supply for yourself as well as helping the wildlife. You can do this by:

- NOT collecting small Lugworm and Ragworm
- Only taking crabs that are fit for use as bait and returning immature, berried (egg carrying) and non-moulting crabs.
- NOT taking more bait than is needed.
- Collecting peeler crabs for bait using only existing shelters or structures (including tyres).
- Backfilling holes.
- Digging carefully to limit the exposure of the lower sediment or "black mud".
- Avoiding trench digging.
- Avoiding wasting bait by ensuring it is stored and transported correctly.

Dog owners

The beach is one of the best places to go for a long walk with your dog. Sadly dogs can seriously disturb wildlife. You can help us change this by following the Coastal Code.

Keep your distance

Help your dog to resist chasing birds and putting them to flight by:

- Keeping your dog on a lead or under close control during winter.
- Avoiding flocks of birds.

Respect the environment

Sand dunes are important habitats which are easily damaged:

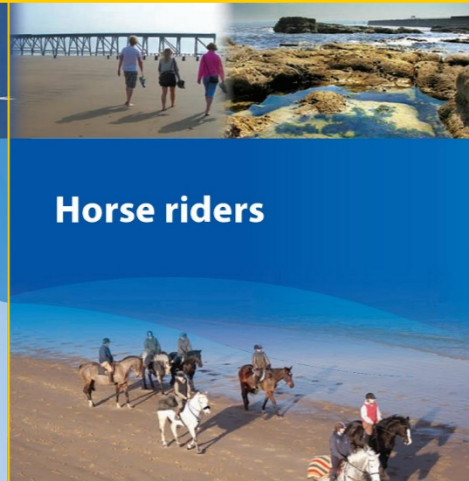
- When walking in the sand dunes please keep to established paths.

A coast for all

Please keep the coast an enjoyable environment for all visitors by:

- Cleaning up after your dog.
- Observing local byelaws:
 - During summer dogs are banned from Redcar Beach and Seaton Carew Beach.
 - During winter dogs must be kept on a lead at Hartlepool North Sands (from Marine Drive northwards).
 - At North Gare dogs must be kept on a lead or under close control.

Horse riders



Keep your distance

As a horse rider you can avoid putting birds to flight by:

- Keeping your distance from flocks of birds when you are riding along the beach.
- Avoiding the shoreline.
- Keeping your distance from the little tern colony at Crimdon Denemouth. During the breeding season (May—August) the colony is clearly fenced off and there is still plenty of beach for you to enjoy.

Respect the environment

Please avoid riding in the sand dunes as they are extremely fragile habitats.

A coast for all

Please be a considerate rider.

- Take care when riding near other beach users and, if possible please, give them a wide berth.

Watersports

Keep your distance

Please avoid putting birds to flight by:

- Launching away from birds' feeding and roosting grounds, and avoid landing in these areas except in an emergency.

If you encounter wildlife such as seals, either at sea or on sandbanks, please slow down and give them a wide berth as they can be easily disturbed.

Remember **jet skis are prohibited on Seal Sands and Greatham Creek.**

- During the summer there is a high risk you could separate seal pups from their mothers.
- During winter excessive disturbance could harm bird survival.

Respect the environment

Please avoid damage to the beach and shoreline by:

- Keeping to established footpaths and bridleways when accessing the beach.
- Using the designated launch sites for PWCs.

A coast for all

Please keep an eye out for other users:

- Watch out for swimmers and children in the water.
- Be aware of others when clearing equipment away from the shore.

Field Study Groups

Keep your distance

When at the coast please avoid disturbing birds by:

- Keeping your distance from feeding and roosting birds during winter and breeding birds during the summer.

Respect the environment

Remember you're visiting a wildlife habitat. Please respect it by:

- Walking gently on rocks and by rockpools.
- Replacing all rocks, plants and animals.
- Not removing limpets or seaweed from rocks.

Why not take photographs or make sketches rather than taking things home?

A coast for all

As a guide, instructor or teacher, you are responsible for the safety and welfare of the group:

- Check tide times.
- Be aware of coastal hazards.
- Set clear limits.

Follow your organisation's guidelines on health and safety for seashore visits.

Guided walks, activities and practical tasks for community and school groups are available at:

Teessmouth National Nature Reserve **01429 853325**

Hartlepool Countryside Wardens **01429 853325**

Teessmouth Field Centre **01429 264912**

Birdwatchers and Photographers

The protection of birds and wildlife should be prioritised. By following the Coastal Code your enjoyment should not affect their welfare.

Keep your distance

Please avoid putting birds to flight by:

- Keeping your distance from feeding and roosting birds during winter and breeding birds during the summer.
- Being patient; let the birds adjust to you entering their environment.

There is a wide range of binoculars and telescopes to help you appreciate the birds from a safe distance.

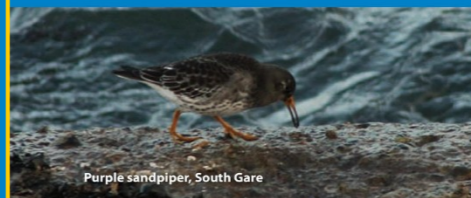
Respect the environment

Please take care not to harm habitats that are home to the birds and other wildlife by:

- Keeping to established paths.
- Visiting bird and seal watching hides at the Teessmouth National Nature Reserve and Greattham Creek.

A coast for all

Be considerate to your fellow visitors by sharing your wildlife knowledge with them and the best view points.



Purple sandpiper, South Gare

Further information and contacts

British Horse Society www.bhs.org.uk
 British Kite Surfing Association
www.britishkitesurfingassociation.co.uk
 INCA www.inca.org.uk
 Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk
 North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
www.ne-ifca.gov.uk
 Royal Yachting Association www.rya.org.uk
 Teessmouth Field Centre www.teessmouth.freeserve.co.uk
 Teessmouth National Nature Reserve
www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/nnr
 The Angling Trust www.anglingtrust.net
 Tides information www.tidetimes.org.uk
 Visitor Information www.visitteesvalley.co.uk
 Weather information
www.met-office.gov.uk or www.bbc.co.uk/weather
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Out and about along the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast

Place to visit: Crimdon Denemouth
Best for: Observing little terns
When: May through to August

Little terns have been nesting around Teesmouth for at least 100 years and Crimdon Denemouth is one of the most successful breeding sites for little terns in the UK.

The birds arrive in April and, after a brief courtship, lay a clutch of up to three eggs in the sand. The chicks are active within a few days of hatching and shelter amongst the debris on the beach.

Twenty one days after hatching the chicks start to fly. The return flight to West Africa usually begins towards the end of August.



Little terns at Crimdon

Place to visit: North Sands and Hartlepool Headland
Best for: Long walks, excellent views and rock pooling
When: Summer

The golden sandy beach of North Sands is ideal for long walks whilst the Headland rock pools offer you a chance to roll up your sleeves and search for crabs. This area was also home to the fabled 'Elephant Rock' which finally succumbed to erosion by the sea in May 1891.



Elephant Rock, Hartlepool

Place to visit: Teesmouth National Nature Reserve (NNR), North Gare
Best for: Wildlife walks
When: Year round

The Teesmouth NNR includes North Gare, Seaton Dunes and Seal Sands which are home to a vast array of wildlife. Look out for rare plants, including four different species of orchid, and hundreds of migratory waterbirds feeding on the mudflats. Remember to keep an eye out for harbour (common) and grey seals basking beside the tidal channels.



North Gare beach

Why not attend one of the many NNR events to find out more about this site? The events are free. For more information contact the NNR reserve staff on 01429 853325.

Place to visit: South Gare, near Redcar
Best for: Bird watching
When: Year round

South Gare is a breakwater marking the entrance to the Tees estuary. It was built 100 years ago using thousands of tons of 'slag' from the blast furnaces of Teesside. The position of the Gare on the North East coast makes it an ideal spot for migrant birds. Recent migrants have included Richard's Pipit and Hume's yellow-browed warbler.



South Gare breakwater

Byelaws in place at the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast

Off Road Vehicles:

- Without the landowner's permission, it is illegal to drive a mechanically propelled vehicle off a road or other public right of way used as a road (Road Traffic Act 1988).
- Mechanically propelled vehicles include all 'off road' vehicles such as 4x4s, scramble bikes and quad bikes. All foreshore land and sea defence banks are included in the Act.

Dog Walkers:

- Dogs must be kept on a lead at Hartlepool North Sands (north of Marine Drive) from 1st November - 1st April.
- Dogs are banned from Seaton Carew Beach and Redcar Beach from 1st May - 30th September.
- Dogs must be kept on a lead or under close control at North Gare.

Bait Collectors:

- Bait collection is restricted on North Gare, please see signs on the site as to where you may collect.
- No bait may be collected from Seal Sands.

Personal Watercraft Users:

- Personal watercraft are not permitted on Greatham Creek or Seal Sands.



The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast is a beautiful and unique landscape known for its long stretches of sandy beaches, rocky shores and sand dunes.

Many areas of the coast are designated as a European Marine Site for their birdlife. It is important to help conserve our coast by using appropriate places for your activity and following the code of conduct.

Please help conserve our coast by:

- Keeping your distance from the waterbirds
- Respecting the environment
- Creating an enjoyable experience for all visitors

Activity Key

	Dog walking		Car parking
	Horse riding		Toilets
	Shore angling		Café
	Bait collection		Recommended area for activity
	Kite surfing		Area for activity but problems with bird disturbance
	Wind surfing		Activity restricted. See map for information
	Personal watercraft		Main bird roosting area
	Sailing		Main bird feeding area
	Bird watching		Main bird breeding area
	Field trips		European Marine Site
	Seal watching hide		Foreshore
	Bathing, lifeguard		Rocky Shore
	May - September		

Need a slipway or a berth?

Contact: Hartlepool Marina (01429 865744)
 Tees and Hartlepool Yacht Club (01429 233423)

Place to visit: Redcar Rocks, Redcar

Best for: Fossil hunting
When: Year round

Redcar Rocks showcase the best exposure of rocks belonging to the oldest part of the Jurassic succession in the north-east of England (200-190 million years ago).

At low tide the rocks are exposed displaying characteristic fossil ammonites and in places the fossil oyster Gryphaea (known as the 'Devil's Toenail') is abundant.



Redcar Rocks, Redcar