

# Preliminary environmental information report (PEIR)

**Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.6.A: International Statutory  
Designated Sites**

May 2025

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## 2.6.A International Statutory Designated Sites

Table 2.6.A-1 – International Statutory Designated Sites within 10 km

International Designated Site	Designated Feature Summary	Approximate Distance and direction from draft Order Limits
Greater Wash Special Protection Area (SPA)	<p>Range of wintering, migratory and breeding wetland birds.</p> <p><b>Qualifying Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red-throated diver (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Common scoter (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Little gull (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (breeding)</li> <li>• Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (breeding)</li> <li>• Little tern (breeding).</li> </ul>	Within
The Wash SPA	<p>Range of wintering, migratory and breeding wetland birds.</p> <p><b>Qualifying Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bewick's swan (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Pink-footed goose (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Dark-bellied brent goose (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Common shelduck (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Eurasian wigeon (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Northern pintail (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Black (common) scoter (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Common goldeneye (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Eurasian oystercatcher (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Grey plover (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Red knot (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Sanderling (non-breeding)</li> </ul>	2.40 km east

International Designated Site	Designated Feature Summary	Approximate Distance and direction from draft Order Limits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dunlin (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Eurasian curlew (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Common redshank (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Ruddy turnstone (non-breeding)</li> <li>• Common tern (breeding)</li> <li>• Little tern (breeding)</li> </ul>	
The Wash Ramsar	<p>Saltmarsh, intertidal sand and mudflats with shallow and deep channels and range of wintering, migratory and breeding wetland birds.</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 1</b></p> <p>The Wash is a large shallow bay comprising very extensive saltmarshes, major intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow water and deep channels.</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 3</b></p> <p>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> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 5</b></p> <p>Assemblages of international importance (species with peak counts in winter: waterfowl).</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 6</b></p> <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurasian oystercatcher</li> <li>• Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>• Red knot</li> <li>• Sanderling</li> <li>• Eurasian curlew</li> <li>• Common redshank</li> </ul>	2.40 km east

International Designated Site	Designated Feature Summary	Approximate Distance and direction from draft Order Limits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruddy turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pink-footed goose</li> <li>• Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></li> <li>• Common shelduck</li> <li>• Northern pintail</li> <li>• Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</b></p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit.</li> </ul> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European golden plover</li> <li>• Northern lapwing</li> </ul> <p>Other flora and fauna are also listed, which are not designated site features but are listed as noteworthy.</p>	
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC	<p>Various Annex I habitats: sandbank, mudflat, sandflat, inlet, bay, reef, saltmarsh, Atlantic salt meadow, coastal scrub and lagoon habitats as well as Annex II common seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> and otter.</p> <p><b>Qualifying Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; subtidal sandbanks</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; intertidal mudflats and sandflats</li> <li>• Coastal lagoons</li> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays</li> <li>• Reefs</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> </ul>	2.40 km east



International Designated Site	Designated Feature Summary	Approximate Distance and direction from draft Order Limits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</li> <li>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>); Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub</li> <li>Otter</li> <li>Common seal</li> </ul>	
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes & Gibraltar Point SAC	<p>Contains various Annex I dune habitats.</p> <p><b>Qualifying Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram</li> <li>Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland*</li> <li>Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>; Dunes with sea-buckthorn, and</li> <li>Humid dune slacks.</li> </ul>	9.4 km southeast
Humber Estuary SAC	<p>Various Annex I habitats: estuaries, mudflat, sandflat, coastal lagoon, pioneer saltmarsh, Atlantic salt meadows and dunes, as well as Annex II lamprey and grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>.</p> <p>SAC considered as part of the assessment principally in relation to those qualifying features in <b>bold</b>.</p> <p><b>Qualifying features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></b></li> <li><b>River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i></b></li> <li><b>Grey seal</b></li> <li>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; subtidal sandbanks</li> <li>Estuaries</li> <li>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; intertidal mudflats and sandflats</li> <li>Coastal lagoons</li> </ul>	17 km north (but relevant hydrological connection)

International Designated Site	Designated Feature Summary	Approximate Distance and direction from draft Order Limits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glassworts <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</li> <li>Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes"); shifting dunes with marram</li> <li>Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); dune grassland</li> <li>Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>, dunes with sea buckthorn</li> </ul>	
Humber Estuary Ramsar	<p>Range of habitats, migrant birds, lamprey and a grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> population (Ramsar criteria 1, 3, 5, 6 and 8).</p> <p>Ramsar considered as part of the assessment principally in relation to those qualifying features in <b>Ramsar criteria 3 (grey seal) and 8.</b></p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 1:</b></p> <p>The site is a representative example of a near-natural estuary with the following component habitats: dune systems and humid dune slacks, estuarine waters, intertidal mud and sand flats, saltmarshes, and coastal brackish/saline lagoons.</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 3:</b></p> <p>The Humber Estuary Ramsar site supports a breeding colony of grey seals at Donna Nook. It is the second largest grey seal colony in England and the furthest south regular breeding site on the east coast. The dune slacks at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the southern extremity of the Ramsar site are the most northeasterly breeding site in Great Britain of the natterjack toad <i>Bufo calamita</i>.</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 5:</b></p> <p>Assemblages of international importance: waterfowl, non-breeding season</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 6:</b></p> <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eurasian golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria altifrons</i> subspecies (passage and wintering)</li> </ul>	10.5 km north (but relevant hydrological connection)

International Designated Site	Designated Feature Summary	Approximate Distance and direction from draft Order Limits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red knot <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> subspecies (passage and wintering)</li> <li>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> subspecies (passage and wintering)</li> <li>Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> subspecies (passage and wintering)</li> <li>Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus brittanica</i> subspecies (passage and wintering)</li> <li>Common shelduck (breeding and wintering)</li> <li>Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i> subspecies (wintering).</li> </ul> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 8:</b> The Humber Estuary acts as an important migration route for both river lamprey and sea lamprey between coastal waters and their spawning areas.</p>	
Nene Washes SAC	<p><b>Qualifying feature:</b> Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i></p>	13.5 km southwest (direct; approximately 15.8 km upstream, relevant hydrological connection)
Baston Fen SAC	<p><b>Qualifying feature:</b> Spined loach</p>	20.5 km west (direct, approximately 23.5 km upstream, relevant hydrological connection)



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