

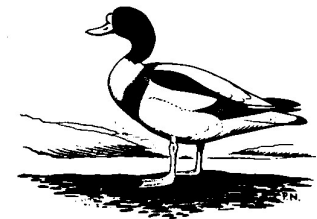


LITTLE OWL, PUDDING POKE FARM

# **ORNITHOLOGICAL LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES IN HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT – SUGGESTED SITES**

Prepared by

**TEESMOUTH BIRD  
CLUB**



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**ORNITHOLOGICAL LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES IN HARTEPOOL DISTRICT  
SUGGESTED SITES BY TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB**

<b>SITE NAME</b>	<b>GRID REF</b>	<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>HARTLEPOOL OLD CEMETERY/JEWISH CEMETERY AND ADJACENT PLANTING</b>	NZ510350	03	<p>Also known as Spion Kop. Partly managed grassland facing North Sands. Little breeding bird interest but important as an area for migrant birds, with the mixture of short and long grassland, scrub with trees and gravestones and walls on which to perch being to their liking. Uncommon birds seen in the developing planting adjacent to the road in recent years have included Booted and Greenish Warblers and Red-backed Shrike, whilst more common species include Black Redstart, Tree Pipit and Redstart.</p> <p>It is vital that the planting be preserved. Potential threats to these sites may come from the proposed housing development on the former industrial area to the south of Spion Kop.</p>
<b>JACKSON'S LANDING AND MARINA</b>	NZ516336	03	<p>No breeding bird interest but important for wintering species such as Red-throated, Black-throated and Great Northern Divers, Red-necked, Slavonian and Black-necked Grebes, Shag and Red-breasted Merganser. The area can be particularly important in providing shelter for storm-driven birds.</p>
<b>VICTORIA HARBOUR AND HARTEPOOL FISH QUAY</b>	NZ523340	03	<p>A traditional site for a variety of seabirds and an important breeding area for Kittiwakes away from the South Cleveland cliffs. The area provides feeding, resting and shelter for species such as Cormorant (often over 100 birds present), Shag, divers, grebes (particularly Great Crested and Slavonian) and gulls, the latter being attracted by the Fish Quay, which is a traditional site for Glaucous and Iceland Gulls.</p> <p>As part of future management it would be beneficial to provide more artificial sites for nesting Kittiwakes and the area is probably now at capacity.</p>
<b>THE CROFT GARDEN, HARTEPOOL HEADLAND</b>	NZ527336	03	<p>Recently refurbished, this garden is a magnet for tired migrant birds, being so close to the sea. Over the years, it has held a staggering array of rare and uncommon species, including Icterine, Subalpine and Yellow-browed Warblers, Firecrest and Red-backed Shrike.</p> <p>Future management of this site by Hartlepool Borough Council should not be 'over-zealous' and cover should be allowed to develop to provide the feeding and protection that tired migrants require. Existing planting could be supplemented by food source species, such as berry-producers.</p>
<b>BOROUGH HALL GARDENS, HARTEPOOL HEADLAND</b>	NZ528337	03	<p>Another important green space, which is a significant migrant trap on the Headland. It has changed character in recent years following refurbishment, which has resulted in the loss of a considerable amount of shrub cover; however, many additional trees have been planted and shrub cover is now developing in the 'Time Garden'. The existing mature trees are particularly important (especially the two at the entrance to the new 'plaza')</p>

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			<p>opposite Borough Hall), as were the nationally famous 'Fish Shop Trees' adjacent to Verrill's, now replaced. Birds recorded at this site include Bluethroat, Barred, Greenish, Yellow-browed and Subalpine Warblers, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Firecrest and Richard's Pipit.</p> <p>Future management should involve the protection of the existing mature trees and the maintenance of the recently planted ones, including replacement of failed specimens to retain full cover.</p>
<b>TOWN MOOR, HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND</b>	NZ530341	03	<p>A first impression of this open, exposed site is that it is of limited value to birds but it does provide an open area of maintained short grassland beloved by feeding birds such as Starling, Blackbird, Song and Mistle Thrushes and Meadow Pipits. Rare birds are occasionally attracted to the grassland, such as Shore Lark.</p> <p>The site should be maintained as a mown grass area.</p>
<b>BOWLING GREENS, HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND</b>	NZ530339	03	<p>These are located off Marine Drive and are important areas for migrant birds, being so close to the sea. Over the years, the seaward site has attracted a staggering number of rare species, including Corncrake, Little Bunting, Paddyfield Warbler (2 records) and Icterine, Yellow-browed and Barred Warblers.</p> <p>Future management should include the retention of the peripheral shrub cover and gapping-up where necessary with appropriate species. The site is frequently used as a ringing station by TBC members.</p>
<b>CROOKFOOT RESERVOIR AND ADJACENT FIELDS</b>	NZ433336	03	<p>The only major freshwater site in North Cleveland, which has breeding populations of Great Crested Grebe, Coot, Moorhen and Mallard. The fresh water attracts large numbers of gulls, which come to bathe and preen, and these often bring less common species such as Iceland and Glaucous Gulls. The surrounding woodlands hold healthy populations of typical species, including Blackcap, Garden and Willow Warblers and Chiffchaff and the adjacent fields are often used as winter feeding areas by large numbers of Greylag Geese, often over 400 strong. Whilst many of the geese may be of feral origin, their numbers are partly swollen by genuine migrants from Iceland, as testified by birds sporting numbered neck collars. The goose flocks often contain rarer species, such as White-fronted, Greenland White-fronted, Bean, Pink-footed and Barnacle Geese.</p> <p>Crookfoot is no longer used for water extraction and suffers from lack of water level management, with the result that levels are often too high for certain breeding species and migrant waders. The site has become a regular haunt of Common Buzzard, which may breed locally, and Ospreys occasionally linger. It is not unreasonable to think that the latter species may eventually breed here, as the habitat is ideal.</p>
<b>RED GAP MOOR</b>	NZ435295	02	<p>This area constitutes one of the last remaining strongholds of breeding Corn Bunting in Cleveland, where they are also declining.</p>

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			HLS schemes incorporating winter stubble should be encouraged to arrest its decline.																											
<b>SEATON CEMETERY</b>	NZ525296	03	<p>This relatively small, sheltered cemetery has abundant tree cover (mainly sycamore) for tired migrants. Some neglected land at the rear of the church has rank grassland and un-maintained shrubbery, ideal for smaller birds. The short, mown grassland over most of the cemetery is ideal for pipits and thrushes. Over the years this site has attracted many common and rare migrants, including Dusky and Yellow-browed Warblers and Red-breasted, Spotted and Pied Flycatchers. Large numbers of Collared Doves are often seen here.</p> <p>Maintenance must involve the protection of tree and shrub canopies by a long-term replanting regime to ensure continuity of cover.</p>																											
<b>WEST VIEW CEMETERY, HARTLEPOOL</b>	NZ495350	03	<p>A larger cemetery, which has a good stock of mature and semi-mature trees but little shrubbery. Although less well-watched than sites closer to the sea, West View has turned up good numbers of common migrants in recent years and rarities, such as Greenish Warbler.</p> <p>Maintenance must involve the protection of the trees by a long-term replanting regime to ensure continuity of cover, as existing trees die off.</p>																											
<b>HART QUARRY AND SURROUNDING FIELDS</b>	NZ476345	02	<p>Hart Quarry is located in a gently rolling, largely agricultural landscape on the urban-rural fringe of northwest Hartlepool, on the South Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau. It forms part of an extrusive band of Magnesian Limestone, which extends westwards inland and outcrops at the sea to the east at Hartlepool Headland. It is major site in Cleveland for breeding Peregrine since 2002, as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>YEAR</th> <th>PAIR PRESENT</th> <th>COMMENTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Four young fledged,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Three young fledged.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Three young successfully fledged.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Two young were fledged.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Four young were fledged.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Two young were raised.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2003</td> <td>✓</td> <td>Two young were raised.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2002</td> <td>✓</td> <td>First known breeding at Hart Quarry, when a pair raised 2 young.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Corn Bunting has traditionally wintered in the farmland surrounding Hart Quarry. This is a Red List and UK/Local BAP species, which is in a state of serious decline in Cleveland and elsewhere in the Northern Region. North Hartlepool, around Hart, Elwick and Red Gap Moor, is the last area in which it has recently been known to breed but even here its numbers are declining rapidly and it is likely that it will eventually become extinct in</p>	YEAR	PAIR PRESENT	COMMENTS	2009	✓	Four young fledged,	2008	✓	Three young fledged.	2007	✓	Three young successfully fledged.	2006	✓	Two young were fledged.	2005	✓	Four young were fledged.	2004	✓	Two young were raised.	2003	✓	Two young were raised.	2002	✓	First known breeding at Hart Quarry, when a pair raised 2 young.
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			<p>Cleveland unless remedial measures are put in place. Key wintering sites near Hart are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East of Hart Village in square NZ4735;</li> <li>• Fields south of Hart Village in squares NZ4634 and possibly NZ4734, and</li> <li>• Fields between Hart and Elwick, mainly in squares NZ4533, NZ4633 and NZ4634.</li> </ul> <p>Wintering flocks depend upon the location of winter stubble on which they depend for over-winter survival. Any reduction in the acreage of winter stubble will be to the detriment of this vulnerable species, which is just clinging on as a breeding bird in Cleveland.</p> <p>Yellowhammers breed locally and also winter in the stubble fields around Hart Quarry. This species is Red Listed and is a UK/Local BAP species. The wintering flocks recorded around Hart are some of the largest in Cleveland, though these, too, have diminished in recent years.</p> <p>Grey Partridge is a declining species locally and nationally, so consequently it is Red Listed and is a UK/Local BAP species. Whilst sizeable coveys are rarely reported from the under-watched fields around Hart, that seen on 3rd February 2006 (8 birds) is notable. It was not recorded breeding during the TBC's Breeding Bird Survey (1999-2006), probably due to the over-maintained hedgerows, industrial-scale fields and lack of suitable habitat.</p> <p>At least one pair of Kestrels breeds in Hart Quarry. This is an Amber List species and the site has one of the largest breeding colonies of Jackdaw in Cleveland. Little Owl is also reported to breed.</p> <p>Any proposed development or expansion of Hart Quarry should be carefully assessed to ensure it has no adverse impacts on the breeding Peregrines and other species noted above. If farmers could be persuaded to retain some fields as winter stubble, this would enormously benefit Corn Buntings, Yellowhammers, Skylarks, finches and Tree Sparrows.</p>
<b>ELWICK</b>	NZ460328	03	<p>One of the last remaining breeding sites in Cleveland for this rapidly declining species, with 1-2 pairs remaining faithful to the same site in recent years.</p> <p>Long-term management should include negotiations with the landowner to secure some winter stubble or a winter feeding scheme and the maintenance of existing, and creation of new, breeding habitat.</p>
<b>ST MARY'S CHURCH GARDEN, HARTLEPOOL HEADLAND</b>	NZ528338	03	<p>A small but important traditional site for migrant birds, part of the network of gardens across the Headland. The site is composed of two formal gardens, with mown grass, herbaceous borders and several sycamore trees, some of the latter having declined or died in recent years. The semi-mature sycamores adjacent to St Mary's Church are very important, as they are in a sheltered location and have proved to be attractive to</p>

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			<p>migrants. Species recorded here include Red-breasted, Spotted and Pied Flycatchers, Greenish, Pallas's, Barred and Yellow-browed Warblers and Firecrest.</p> <p>Future management should include the replanting of sycamores to replace those which have died to ensure continuity of cover.</p>
<b>'POWER STATION FIELD', TEESMOUTH</b>	NZ534272	01	<p>Formerly the Leathers Chemicals site, now reclaimed. This large, grazed field fronting Hartlepool Power Station is important for migrant waders and passerines. When damp, it attracts large numbers of Redshank, Ringed Plover and Dunlin. Brent Geese occasionally feed here and the site is attractive to migrant birds that prefer open grassland, such as Ring Ouzel and Twite. Dung from the grazing horses attracts myriads of flies, which in turn attract insectivorous birds. The area was originally earmarked for the disposal of dredged waste under PD Ports' proposed Northern Gateway development but was subsequently dropped when TBC alerted the company during the EIA stage of its importance to birds.</p> <p>This site should be retained in its present state and continue to be grazed by horses.</p>
<b>ZINC WORKS ROAD BUSHES</b>	NZ546273 AND 536275	03	<p>These mature stands of goat willow are located at the end of the Zinc Works road, immediately behind the mature sand dune system. The area is usually damp and attracts large numbers of passage Meadow Pipits, as well as Common Snipe. The bushes themselves are a magnet for migrant birds and are now well-watched. In recent years they have produced Greenish, Barred, Pallas's and Yellow-browed Warblers, Ortolan Bunting, Firecrest and Wood Warbler, in addition to many common migrants, such as Willow and Garden Warblers, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat.</p> <p>The site is subject to disturbance and occasional damage caused by irresponsible young campers, who damage trees and leave rubbish behind. In the recent past, Natural England has cleaned up after such incidents, though the area is outwith the TNNR. Future management should include the erection of <i>'No Camping'</i> signs and monitoring of the site with a view to replacement planting as shrubs become over-mature and collapse.</p>
<b>ROSSMERE PARK</b>	NZ502299	03	<p>The key importance of this site is as a roosting and potential breeding site for Cleveland's increasing Little Egret population.</p> <p>Future management must include the retention of mature roosting trees and a schedule of long-term restocking to maintain the tree cover.</p>
<b>WYNYARD PARK WOODLANDS AND SURROUNDING FARMLAND</b>	NZ428284	03	<p>The mature stands of coniferous and deciduous woodland are among the most important in Cleveland. The surrounding agricultural land is also significant and holds a good array of farmland species. The woodlands are home to rare Cleveland raptors, such as Common Buzzard, Goshawk and Honey Buzzard, though none of these has yet been conclusively proved to breed. The woodlands also hold a good selection of woodland birds, including Great Spotted Woodpecker and various warblers, thrushes, tits</p>

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			<p>and finches. Wynyard has suffered over the past 15 years or more from insensitive, damaging development, which has resulted in the wholesale felling of some woodlands for factories, and housing being built in close proximity to some of the finest areas. Old timber barns, once used by Barn Owls, have been demolished and the traditional tenant farms broken up and sold off.</p> <p>Future management in this area must include rigorous Development Control of any proposed new development. Developments that are approved should be non-harmful and include comprehensive mitigation and enhancement, rather than the 'piecemeal token' mitigation that is to be found in many Environmental Statements. Large stands of mature coniferous woodland should be maintained for Goshawk and Common Crossbill and the surrounding farmland should contain some areas of winter stubble.</p>
<b>THORPE BULMER DENE</b>	NZ458362	03	<p>Located at the northern edge of the Borough, this wooded valley, very close to the sea, is a potential breeding site for Common Buzzard and several birds are regularly seen here, particularly in spring. It has the potential to attract breeding Red Kites as they overspill from the Gateshead reintroduction scheme and birds have occasionally been seen over the Dene in recent years (eg 2006). The woodlands also hold a good selection of breeding woodland species, including Jay.</p> <p>Future action should include the preparation of a management plan to ensure the long-term continuity of these important woodlands.</p>