



East Cleveland Landscape Area Habitats & Species

UK BAP Priority Habitats

Broadleaved Mixed Woodland

Found mainly in the steep-sided beck valleys where they form long stretches of mainly deciduous woodland amongst the adjacent arable and permanent-pasture farmland. Most of these sites have probably had continuous woodland cover since 1600AD. They are mainly of semi-natural tree composition (ash and sycamore) with a rich ground flora, wet flushes with alder woodland, and oak woodland on higher, more acidic soils. There are areas of ancient woodland which have been planted with conifers, many of which retain remnants of associated ancient woodland ground flora and native tree regeneration

Upland Heathland

Found entirely along the southern edge of the landscape area, at the edge of the enclosed agricultural land. It is mainly a mosaic of wet and dry heath, characterised by heather (ling), bell heather, purple moor-grass and heath rush, and is a part of the North York Moors National Park, which has the largest continuous tract of heather moorland in England.

Lowland Meadow

Small scattered fragments of unimproved species-rich meadows are mainly located on steep slopes and are often associated with neighbouring beck valley woodlands. These meadows are predominantly managed as permanent pasture, rather than hay meadows, and some contain species of national interest such as pepper-saxifrage and dyer's greenweed, and species of regional interest such as saw-wort.

Priority Ponds

Small ponds are scattered through the rural landscape, with a grouping of biodiverse ponds at Lovell Ponds. The majority of the ponds meet the priority pond criteria due to the presence of either common toad or great crested newt, with a few fulfilling the criteria for invertebrates, plants or water vole.

Maritime Cliff and Slope

The entire coastal strip of the East Cleveland Landscape Area is the priority habitat Maritime Cliff and Slope, and forms part of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast. The differing resistance of the rocks to erosion has produced horizontal ledges, which support seabird colonies, including kittiwake, fulmar, cormorant and razorbill. The upper cliffs, in areas where the soft bolder clay has slumped and been colonised by scrub, hold dense breeding populations of whitethroat, yellowhammer and linnet. Fragments of maritime grasslands occur along the cliff slopes and tops.

Hedgerow

The landscape is characterised by small fields with a dense network of hedgerows that link the other priority habitats. Many of these hedgerows are species-rich and have an associated woodland ground flora, particularly where they are close to the fringes of ancient and semi-natural woodland. It is likely that many hedgerows pre date 1700.

Traditional Orchard

Remnants of old traditional orchards, associated with country estates or farms, are still found scattered across the East Cleveland Landscape Area. These orchards vary in their size and condition and are now mainly for domestic use.

Fen

There are three fens within the area, two on Eston Moor and one close to Upleatham (a rush dominated wet flush).

Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land (Brownfield)

There are three open mosaic habitats in East Cleveland occurring on post-industrial spoil heaps at Boulby, Liverton Mines and Skinningrove steelworks. These mainly grassland habitats are botanically diverse and support a range of specialised invertebrate species.

Other Grassland

There is one site each of Lowland Calcareous Grassland (near Skinningrove) and Upland Calcareous Grassland (on Eston Moor), and two sites of Lowland Dry Acid Grassland (one within the North York Moors National Park, and one south of Brotton).

Other Habitats of Importance

Species-rich Grassland

There are 30 Local Wildlife Sites designated for the presence of species-rich grassland within the Landscape Area of which 10 have been recorded as the priority habitat Lowland Meadow. The remaining 20 sites have not all been surveyed in sufficient depth to determine whether or not they are the priority habitat Lowland Meadow, but they are important locally.

Sites of Geological Importance

There are 20 sites of geological interest of which two are of national importance and designated as SSSI.

UK BAP Priority Species

Great Crested Newt

Great crested newts are found scattered across the area.

Adder

There is strong population of adder around Scaling Dam and on the northern edges of the North York Moors.

Common Lizard

Common lizard is found in several locations. In upland habitat it is found around Scaling Dam within the North York Moors National Park and also on Eston Moor. It is also recorded at the coast around Saltburn.

Slow Worm

There are important populations of slow worm on the northern edges of the North York Moors, extending into the adjacent woodlands. They also occur along the cliffs and in the wooded coastal denes in the Saltburn to Loftus area.

Water Vole

Small populations of water vole are found in the urban becks of Guisborough.

Otter

Otters are probably present in all the beck valleys. They are regularly seen at the mouth of Kilton Beck in Skinningrove.

Breeding Birds

A large percentage of many breeding populations of bird species of key importance in the Tees Valley are present within the East Cleveland Landscape Area. Nineteen species are listed as of red level of concern in the UK (for example lapwing, grey partridge, willow tit, linnet, eurasian nightjar) and 22 species listed as of amber concern in the UK (for example curlew, bullfinch, redstart, fulmar). Twenty one out of this total of 41 species are also UKBAP priority species.

Invertebrates

The East Cleveland woodlands are home to white-letter hairstreak butterfly, a priority species which uses elms as larval food plants. Established populations are at Kilton Woods, Tockett's Mill and Upleatham.

The dingy skipper and grayling butterflies occur in the species-rich grasslands associated with open mosaic habitat sites in the area. Significant populations of dingy skipper occur at Boulby and Liverton Mines, while grayling occurs at Boulby and Skinningrove.