

**TATA STEEL**



**Our commitment to biodiversity  
at Shotton Works**



# Contents

- 03 Introduction to biodiversity
- 05 Our earliest commitment to biodiversity
- 06 A wide variety of wildlife on site
- 08 Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- 09 Grass roots approach to biodiversity
- 10 Biodiversity in the wider community
- 13 What's next for biodiversity at Shotton



# Introduction to biodiversity

There is no doubt that biodiversity loss is connected with human activity.

The impact of the growing global population is driving deforestation, leading to land-use change and encroachment on wildlife habitats. There is mounting evidence that the health of the planet is declining at rates never seen before in human history. This destruction of nature undermines human health and well-being, and places severe costs on businesses and economies, whilst making other global challenges, such as climate change increasingly difficult.

It is therefore clear that the biodiversity emergency is as urgent and important as the climate emergency, and the two should be tackled together.

On a site that spans a total area of 404 hectares, this is a challenge we recognise and we have invested extensive efforts over the years to protect the biodiversity on our site so we can exist in harmony alongside each other.

Biodiversity is a key pillar of our sustainability commitment which also includes reducing our carbon footprint, sustainable products and services, and maximising our material efficiency.

In a world that is faced with a climate and biodiversity emergency, we are committed to providing a positive environmental legacy for years to come by continuing to protect and expand the biodiversity on our site.



**PROTECT  
BIODIVERSITY**







# Our earliest commitment to biodiversity

One of the first biodiversity projects we delivered as Shotton stems back to the 1970's which was an initiative in collaboration with Merseyside Ringing Group (MRG) to transform the lagoons into a nature reserve providing safe nesting sites for the Common Tern (a bird species which has a UK Conservation Status of Amber).

Common Terns are long-lived birds, often surviving for more than 20 years. With their normal wintering grounds on the West coast of Africa it means they can fly more than 250,000km in a lifetime, the equivalent of six times round the earth.

The first safe nesting area for Common Terns was created in 1970 by deploying artificial rafts. A small raft was constructed on the cooling lagoon for the blast furnaces, where after attracting 12 pairs of nesting terns, the first 17 chicks fledged in the first year of the project.

Fast forward 50 years, the colony has grown and has now become the largest Common Tern colony in Wales and one of the top five colonies in the UK.

The colony continues to be a major contributor to the Irish Sea Common Tern metapopulation, supporting an amber-listed species as specified in the Dee Estuary Special Protection Area.

Since the nesting areas started in the 1970's approximately 400 tern chicks have fledged each year and fly over Shotton, making a total of 20,000 birds.

Chicks have fledged and have been reported from 20 different countries, mainly around the coast of West Africa but as far south as South Africa. The project is monitored in collaboration with Merseyside Ringing Group (MRG).

Additionally, we are proud of the fact the breeding project was recognised with a Prince of Wales Environment Award in 1971.

Interestingly the Common Terns are joined by 80 other species of birds including birds of prey that can be found on the Shotton site alongside our manufacturing lines.

We continue to provide ongoing assistance with the maintenance of the islands and reedbeds, which includes suppressing vegetation, as terns prefer to nest on bare, stony ground, maintaining protection from predation and covering the island nesting sites until the Common Terns return each spring.

From time to time the islands require more extensive refurbishment which involves clearing nesting materials and larger vegetation, improving walk ways and preparing the ground for future generations of chicks. At the recent upgrade in collaboration with Natural Resources Wales and the Merseyside Ringing Group (MRG), an incredible 2 tonnes of Galvanised steel was manufactured into mesh which provides a barrier to mitigate rats. Additionally 120 tonnes of 133 bags of stone, quarried locally in Llay was used as well as 2,010 m<sup>2</sup> of membrane.



**400**  
tern chicks fledged  
each year

**20,000**  
birds since 1970

**80**  
other species of birds  
found on the Shotton site

## A wide variety of wildlife on site

Quite remarkably, the manufacturing site is inhabited by a wide variety of other animals taking advantage of the green spaces, wildlife corridors and meadowlands. Other species that have been identified and regularly spotted on site include rabbits, foxes, badgers, grass snakes, Odonata species (Dragonflies and Damselflies) and Orchids, alongside the many species of birds.









# Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is a formal conservation designation. Usually, it describes an area that's of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora it contains - or even important geological or physiological features that may lie in its boundaries. SSSIs often contain important habitats such as grasslands, parkland and woodland. Some even contain ancient woodland and ancient trees. In other words, these areas have high conservation value, and need to be protected.

The Shotton Lagoons and Reedbeds SSSI, designated in UK law in 1999, reflects the two key features of interest: the settlement lagoons which is home to the Common Tern colony and the important reed bed habitat adjacent to the lagoons.

In addition, Shotton Works has dedicated areas that have the designation of a Ramsar Site being a wetland habitat of international importance, and the tidal marshes and reed beds play an important role in drawing down and sequestering carbon from the atmosphere (a Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention established in 1971 by UNESCO).





# Grass roots approach to biodiversity



NATURE RESERVE

We believe that appreciation of the importance of biodiversity has to start from a young age, and more than 10 years ago we opened an on-site nature reserve which comes complete with bird observation hides and a watch tower within the steel works called "Shotton Works Nature Reserve". This was developed with sole purpose of school groups getting closer to nature and was complemented with an on-site classroom "The Tern centre" for educational site visits.

The nature reserve includes a dedicated visitor mile-long circular walking route, allowing children or other visitors to the site to see wildlife on the lagoons and reed beds within the conservation area.

Group excursions and school student visits are now a regular feature and we are happy to host visitors and ensure they have an enriching experience of engaging with nature.





# Biodiversity in the wider community

The examples of biodiversity stem further than our own site and as part of our 125th anniversary celebrations in 2021, we worked with the Flintshire County Rangers on the Dee Park Woodland Community Project supporting their target of planting 5,000 trees before the end of March 2022.

This included the Summers' Garden as part of the Park Life project including the creation of a formal garden, rockery area and revamping the summer house.

Other partners we work with include the Merseyside Ringing Group (MRG), Natural Resources Wales and Flintshire County Council Rangers.

“The Tata Steel Nature Reserve is a special site for the common tern and over the years we have worked alongside the owners of the site and Merseyside Ringing Group (MRG) to help protect the local wildlife.”

**Natural Resources Wales Senior Officer, Neil Smith**











# What's next for biodiversity at Shotton

Whilst the activities we have done as a site to date are significant, its important it doesn't stop there and we remain committed to the efforts in protecting and expanding the biodiversity around us.

We have a dedicated team of employees that are looking at other options for encouraging more wildlife on the site including wild flower meadows and bee hives.

Shotton Works aims to achieve The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark status, which is a nationally recognised standard for commitment to biodiversity and responsible land management. The first step is working with North Wales Wildlife Trust on a biodiversity audit, Phase 1 Habitat Survey, and a desk based study that looks at notable species and habitats within 2km of the site. If successful, Shotton Works would be the only site in North Wales and one of the largest industrial manufacturing sites in the UK to hold this standard.



WILD FLOWERS  
AND BEES



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur  
**Gogledd Cymru**  
**North Wales**  
Wildlife Trust



We know what we're doing for biodiversity won't save the planet, however if everyone does their bit – it will make a big impact. These are our small steps which are a big part of our long term sustainability commitment at Shotton.





[www.colorcoat-online.com](http://www.colorcoat-online.com)

Whilst the Colorcoat Connection® helpline takes care in giving out information or advice, it does so only on the basis of the facts supplied. Tata Steel Europe Limited and its subsidiaries do not accept any liability for providing inaccurate, misleading or incomplete information or advice or any reliance which may be placed on such information or advice. The recipient should satisfy itself of the accuracy and appropriateness of any information or advice before relying on it.

While care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate, neither Tata Steel, nor its subsidiaries, accept responsibility or liability for errors or for information which is found to be misleading.

Before using products or services supplied or manufactured by Tata Steel and its subsidiaries, customers should satisfy themselves as to their suitability.



Scan for the latest version of this literature

Copyright 2022  
Tata Steel UK Limited

#### **Sales Contact Details**

##### **Tata Steel**

Shotton Works

Deeside

Flintshire

CH5 2NH

United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)1244 812345

##### **Colorcoat Connection® helpline**

T: +44 (0) 1244 892434

E: [colorcoat.connection@tatasteelurope.com](mailto:colorcoat.connection@tatasteelurope.com)

Tata Steel UK Limited is registered in England under number 2280000 with registered office at 18 Grosvenor Place, London, SW1X 7HS.

Language English UK 0322