

Our commitment to biodiversity at Shotton Works



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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.



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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 one of 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 nearly 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 m² of membrane.



Approximately
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.



Biodiversity at Shotton



- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Poppies & Forget-me-nots | 12. Little owls |
| 2. Kingfisher | 13. Long tailed tits |
| 3. Evening primrose | 14. Cormorants |
| 4. Foxes | 15. Pheasants |
| 5. Butterflies | 16. Bees |
| 6. Pyramidal orchids | 17. Bee orchids |
| 7. Dragonflies | 18. Terns |
| 8. Swans | 19. Rabbits |
| 9. Newts | 20. Warbler |
| 10. Great crested grebe | 21. Oystercatchers |
| 11. Stoat | 22. Canada geese |
| | 23. Buzzard |



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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

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 Council 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.

By working with external partners we have also conducted external ecological surveys, including a site wide survey with Enfys and a bee survey, conducted by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.



“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





The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark



A key ambition for the biodiversity element of the Shotton sustainability commitment was to achieve The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark. This is the only standard that certifies the management of a business site for wildlife, and recognises and celebrates landowning businesses which have achieved excellence.

Designed to complement ISO 14001, it tests the design and implementation of a business's management systems to achieve continual biodiversity enhancement and protection. We're incredibly proud that, not only have we received the accreditation in 2025, but our examples of best practice were the largest number the assessor had ever noted.

"Congratulations to Tata Steel for achieving The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark for land management within its Shotton site in Deeside. Achieving this challenging standard is testament to Tata Steel and the commitment of its employees to protecting and improving wildlife on this site."

"The protection and enhancement of the area that many species call home, species which are struggling such as the common tern, is crucial if we are to succeed in bringing nature back. We look forward to Tata Steel continuing to manage its land for wildlife and annually maintaining The Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark at their site for the long-term."
Emma Price-Thomas, Head of Corporate Partnerships at The Wildlife Trusts



Celebrating our products

Steel products have been manufactured and processed on the Tata Steel site at Shotton in North Wales for over 125 years. Today, the businesses on the site are Colorcoat® and Building Systems UK. The Colorcoat® part of the business produces a wide range of galvanised and pre-finished steel products before being further processed within the Building Systems UK steel processing service centre, or into Building Systems UK products primarily for the construction market. These include the highly efficient Trisomet®, Trimapanel® and Trisobuild® roof and wall systems & ComFlor® and RoofDek structural decking all of which are used across commercial, industrial, retail, warehousing and public sector buildings.

Additionally, we produce Catnic® Urban, a modern and innovative product at Shotton that is used as roofing for residential houses. More and more designers are moving towards steel roofs as it's seven times lighter than clay or slate tile traditionally used and is much quicker to install!

We have supplied many of the buildings we see around us every day. This includes Ikea stores to those iconic buildings including much of the London skyline!

Shotton has developed a number of unique, technically advanced and high value Colorcoat® pre-finished steel products. These are sold in the UK, throughout mainland Europe and around the world from the the Far East to North America and Canada.

The two main Colorcoat® products which come with guarantees of up to 40 years are:

Colorcoat HPS200 Ultra®, which is produced with a unique Scintilla emboss. This demonstrates the product is only made in Shotton.

3 layer Colorcoat Prisma®, which is our latest product development. This is produced with a protective clear coat over the colour layer giving exceptional UV performance. This is important for the building owner when a building needs to last for over 40 years. We are the only manufacturer in Europe that can produce the product in this way.



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.



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