

A6.74b Redshank *Tringa totanus* (non-breeding)

1. Status in UK

See section A6.74a.

2. Population data

	Population sizes (individuals)	Selection thresholds	Totals in species' SPA suite
GB	114,000	1,100 (winter period) 1,200 (passage period)	53,284 (48% of GB total) 54,974 (46% of GB population in passage periods)
Ireland	24,500	245	3,455 (14% of all-Ireland total) 3,193 (13% of all-Ireland population in passage periods) ¹
Biogeographic population	177,000	1,500 (winter period) 1,770 (passage period)	56,739 (38% of biogeographic population) 58,167 (33% of biogeographic population in passage periods)

GB population source: Cayford & Waters 1996

All-Ireland population source: Way et al. 1993

Biogeographic population source: Rose & Scott 1997

3. Distribution

Section A6.74a outlines the global distribution and taxonomy of Redshank.

The Eastern Atlantic Flyway population of the nominate race of Redshank winters from the North Sea countries through the western part of the Mediterranean to West Africa (Smit & Piersma 1989). Non-breeding areas in north and west Scotland are amongst the most northerly Redshank wintering sites in the world. Almost 80% of this biogeographic population overwinter in the UK, including many of those British and Irish breeding birds that remain resident throughout the year.

Redshank wintering in Britain and Ireland also include birds of the race *T. t. robusta* which breed in Iceland and the Faeroes, as well as locally breeding birds from within the UK.

Non-breeding Redshank occur around most of the coast of the UK, as well as at some inland wet grasslands, with approximately 70% occurring on estuaries (Lack 1986; Cayford & Waters 1996).

¹ Data from passage periods were unavailable for some sites in Ireland, hence, winter data have also been used in calculating suite totals.

4. Population structure and trends

Two populations of Redshank occur in the UK in the non-breeding season: the Icelandic race *T .t. robusta* and the nominate race *T .t. totanus*, which includes both UK breeding birds as well as those from Scandinavia. The two races are indistinguishable in the field, so attribution of counts to one or other race is problematic. It is assumed that most non-breeding birds in the UK are Icelandic *T .t. robusta*, with *T .t. totanus* also occurring during passage periods.

Both *totanus* and *robusta* Redshank populations are classified as declining (Rose & Scott 1997). At least some of this decline is attributable to changes in agricultural practices and loss of important wetland sites, which have impacted on the breeding population (Tucker & Heath 1994). In contrast to this observed decline in the biogeographical population, the UK non-breeding numbers increased by 47% between 1981–1985 and 1987–1992 (estuarine sites) and 63% between 1984–1985 and 1987–1992 (non-estuarine coasts) (Cayford & Waters 1996). More recent trends (Pollitt *et al.* 2000) are essentially stable.

5. Protection measures for population in UK

SPA suite

In the non-breeding season, the UK's SPA suite for Redshank supports, on average, 56,739 individuals (calculated using WeBS January site totals for the period 1992/93 to 1996/97 – see section 4.4.1 and Appendix 2 for further explanation). This total amounts to about 48% of the British population, 14% of the all-Ireland population and 38% of the international flyway population in the winter period. During passage periods, the SPA suite supports, on average, 58,167 individuals (calculated using WeBS August site totals for the period 1992/93 to 1996/97). This total amounts to about 46% of overall numbers passing through Britain in that month, about 13% of numbers passing through the island of Ireland and about 33% of the international flyway population. The suite comprises 36 sites where Redshanks have been listed as a qualifying species (Table 6.74b.1).

Other measures

The UK has contributed to the development of a European Union Management Action Plan for Redshank as part of the Ornithological Committee's initiative to develop such plans for a number of Annex II species which have an unfavourable conservation status. Although these action plans are advisory rather than legally binding, the UK will be seeking to implement the recommended actions of the plan as specified for the period 1999–2002. As one example of the implementation of recommended actions, JNCC and other organisations are currently developing an Integrated Monitoring Programme related to UK waterbird monitoring. As indicated by the Redshank Action Plan (Operational Objectives 2.4.1 & 2.4.2), this aims to develop a better understanding of the factors influencing Redshank population dynamics through integrating results from separate programmes which currently collect data and information on parameters such as population sizes, distribution, productivity, mortality and dispersal.

6. Classification criteria

All 27 sites in the UK supporting more than 1% of the international population in either passage or winter periods were considered under Stage 1.2, and all were selected after consideration of Stage 2 judgements. A further nine sites were considered and selected under

Stage 1.3 (see section 5.3), with Redshank identified as an important component of non-breeding waterbird assemblages at these localities.

The sites include the main wintering areas of Redshank in the UK, and are spread from the Moray Firth in north-east Scotland, to sites on the west, east and south coasts of England, as well as in Northern Ireland. All sites are multi-species SPAs, of importance also for a range of other waterbirds. There is a long recorded history of occupancy at most of these sites (Prater 1981). Some of the sites also act as refuges in periods of severe winter weather.

As the selection of sites under Stages 1.2 and 1.3 resulted in a suite which gives adequate coverage of the population and range of passage and non-breeding Redshank in the UK, it was not considered necessary to select additional sites using Stage 1.4.

Distribution map for non-breeding Redshank SPA suite

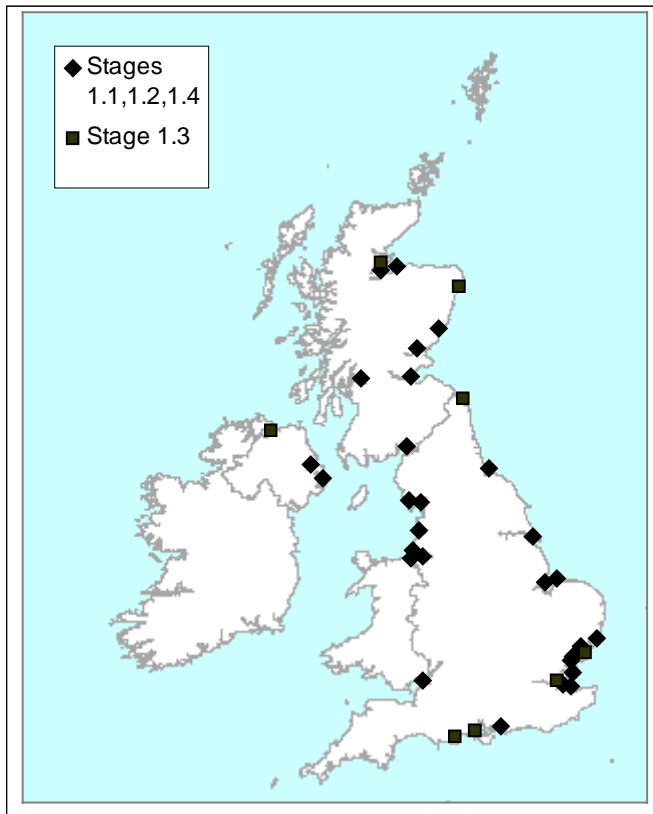


Table 6.74b – SPA suite

Site name	Season of peak use	Site total ²	% of biogeographical population	% of national population	Selection stage
Alde-Ore Estuary	Winter	1,919	1.1	1.7	1.2
Belfast Lough	Winter	2,466	1.4	10.1 (Ire)	1.2
Blackwater Estuary	Winter	4,015	2.23	3.5	1.2
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Winter	1,788	1.0	1.6	1.2
Colne Estuary	Winter	2,077	1.2	1.8	1.2
Cromarty Firth	Winter	1,324	0.8	1.2	1.3
Duddon Estuary	Winter	2,289	1.3	2.0	1.2
Firth of Forth	Winter	3,700	2.1	3.3	1.2
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary	Winter	1,800	1.0	1.6	1.2
Foulness	Passage	2,144	1.2	1.8	1.2
Hamford Water	Winter	1,461	0.8	1.3	1.3
Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast	Passage	5,212	2.9	4.3	1.2
Inner Clyde Estuary	Winter	1,918	1.1	1.7	1.2
Inner Moray Firth	Winter	1,811	1.0	1.6	1.2
Lindisfarne	Winter	1,192	0.7	1.1	1.3
Lough Foyle	Winter	812	0.5	3.3 (Ire)	1.3
Medway Estuary and Marshes	Winter	3,690	2.1	3.2	1.2
Mersey Estuary	Winter	4,689	2.7	4.1	1.2
Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore	Winter	1,981	1.3	1.8	1.2
Montrose Basin	Winter	2,259	1.3	2.0	1.2
Moray and Nairn Coast	Winter	1,690	1.0	1.5	1.2
Morecambe Bay	Winter	6,336	3.6	5.6	1.2
North Norfolk Coast	Winter	2,998	1.7	2.6	1.2
Poole Harbour	Winter	1,369	0.8	1.2	1.3
Ribble and Alt Estuaries	Winter	2,708	1.5	2.4	1.2
Severn Estuary	Winter	2,330	1.3	2.0	1.2
Solent and Southampton Water	Winter	1,211	0.7	1.1	1.3
Stour and Orwell Estuaries	Winter	3,545	2.0	3.1	1.2
Strangford Lough	Winter	3,176	1.8	13.0 (Ire)	1.2
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	Passage	1,287	0.7	1.1	1.3
Thames Estuary and Marshes	Winter	1,161	0.7	1.0	1.3
The Dee Estuary	Passage	8,451	4.8	7.0	1.2
The Swale	Winter	1,640	0.9	1.4	1.2
The Wash	Winter	2,953	1.7	2.6	1.2

² Data in site total column relate to season of peak use.

Site name	Season of peak use	Site total²	% of biogeographical population	% of national population	Selection stage
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	Winter	3,088	1.7	2.7	1.2
Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch	Winter	1,149	0.7	1.0	1.3

JANUARY TOTALS		56,739	37.8%	48.4% 14.1% (Ire)
AUGUST TOTALS		58,167	32.9%	45.8% 13.0% (Ire)