CARBON COAST

Mapping the landscape of South Gare, Teesside.

Robert Davies

Carbon Coast: Robert Davies, Tent Gallery ECA February 2014

South Gare is a peninsula of reclaimed land and breakwater on the southern side of the mouth of the River Tees near Redcar, North Yorkshire, England.

The Gare was constructed between January 1861 and 1884 using 5 million tonnes of blast furnace slag and 18,000 tons of cement, at a total cost of £219,393. The slag was supplied free from Tees-side blast furnaces by ironmasters who paid for its removal.

Built on the reclaimed land of Bran Sands sits the Teesside Steelworks complex, comprising an ore terminal, sinter plant, coke plant, and the second largest blast furnace in Europe. The site also features a gas pipeline through the sand dunes. After 160 years of production, the steelworks was mothballed in 2010 by Tata Steel, but reopened in April 2012 by SSI (Sahaviriya Steel Industries, Thailand). Current environmental carbon emissions for the site are shown in the table below.

ENVIRONMENT DATA				
Carbon dioxide emissions World Steel Association scope in million tonnes CO_2 [B]				
Direct (Scope 1) emissions	35.8	37.3	38.4	[2]
Total (Scope 1 + 2+ 3) emissions	44.5	44.0	43.7	
Carbon intensity in tonnes of CO_2 per tonne of crude steel produced	2.15	2.14	2.11	

Against the backdrop of the steel industry, Teesside Wind Farm, also known as Redcar Wind Farm, was completed in April 2013 by EDF. The farm stands in water of depths up to 20m and covers an area of approximately 10 km^2.

Wedged between these two industries is Paddy's Hole, a small harbour in the lagoon situated on the Teesmouth side of South Gare constructed from slag. It is named Paddy's Hole because of the many Irishmen who helped build the South Gare. This is the location of the South Gare Fishermen's Association's collection of wooden huts, originally designed for repairing nets for the trawlers working from the harbour. The Marques' of Zetland bequeathed the land and permission to build the huts in the late 1800's. These images are a small selection of an on going body of work about this unique location.

This small peninsula of land is the tipping point, where historical industrial technologies such as steelmaking, with its heavy carbon emissions and new sustainable renewable energy is being harnessed through industries like wind power. Few other landscapes in the uk highlight such an extreme polarisation between historic industries and new technologies with just a few square miles.


SOUTH GARE FISHERMANS
ASSOCATION
PRIVATE LAND
NO DOGS
ALLOWED


KEROSENE

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