

4 Reptiles

Caretta caretta loggerhead turtle

Current status WCA 5; EC II, IV; Bern II; Bonn I, II.

In this region there are records from 1854 and 1885, from Scarborough. Covered by a grouped UK species action plan for turtles.

Threats Over exploitation abroad for meat and eggs; disturbance at nesting sites and light pollution along beach heads causing the hatched young to move up rather than down the nest beach;

development on nesting beaches; collisions with propeller-driven boats; drowning in fishing nets; ingestion of flotsam and jetsam.

Dermochelys coriacea leatherback turtle

Current status WCA 5; EC IV; Bern II; Bonn I, II.

There have been about 500 records of marine turtles in UK waters during the last 100 years, mostly leatherbacks along the west coast. Sightings are gradually increasing. Recorded off Whitby (1967), Scarborough (1748/9) and in Bridlington Bay (1871), with an additional record for 'Yorkshire' from 1873. Covered by a grouped UK species action plan for turtles.

Threats Over exploitation abroad; disturbance and development at nesting sites; collisions with boats; drowning in fishing nets; ingestion of flotsam and jetsam.