



RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS TO TEES BARRAGE

Despite a wet summer British Waterways figures show a record number of pedestrian's enjoyed this picturesque part of Tees Valley with approximately 24,500 visitors in August alone.

In the previous year there were just under 22,000 for the same period.

Alan Slater, river manager, British Waterways said: "The high calibre events on the white water course attract lots of visitors from far and wide and I see people enjoying the area everyday either jogging, walking, bird watching, fishing or bike riding I'm delighted so many people are getting out and enjoying this beautiful spot."

Les Southerton, project director, Stockton Middlesbrough Initiative, which promotes the area and helps attract economic investment said: "These figures show how much this area appeals to both local people and visitors from further afield. More and more people are beginning to realise what a great asset the Tees Barrage has become.

"We find tourists coming to enjoy a whole range of activities from waterskiing to going for a stroll along the river bank. There really is something for everyone down here which is why the numbers have no doubt increased."

The visitor figures for July were also over 1,000 higher than the previous year at 20,049 compared to 19,537 for 2007.

This year the Tees Barrage hosted a number of high profile watersports events including the launch of the Jet Ski Racing Association's 2008 British Tour and a series of waterskiing competitions including a floodlit night slalom event.

ENDS

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