



Hauxley Foreshore



What will I see?

A layer of peat with ancient tree trunks sticking out of it. Below the peat is a stony clay laid down by an ice sheet from the last glaciation. Above the peat are sand dunes. The coast is eroding here and new things appear all the time, especially after winter storms.

How old is it?

The peat and the tree trunks are roughly 7,000 years old. The glacial clay beneath was deposited during the last ice age which ended about 15,000 years ago.

Did you know?

Archaeologists have found human foot prints in the peat and mud on the foreshore. And beneath the sand dunes nearby they found many objects and relics left by peoples of many ages: from the Stone Age - Mesolithic period between 6,000 and 10,000 years ago - to Bronze Age, and even bell pits used to mine coal beneath the rocky foreshore.

Why it is here?

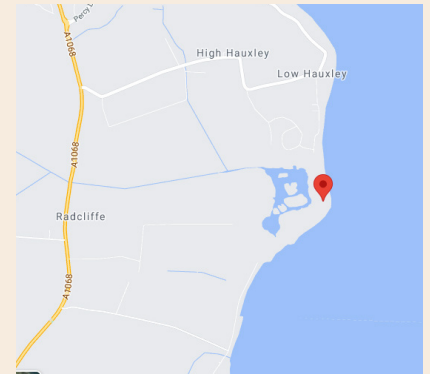
The peat was once vegetation in a low lying poorly drained area. The trees are the remains of a forest. Sea level was lower then and the coastline was further east, in fact at one point in time you could have walked to the Netherlands! Stone Age people re-occupied this part of Britain after the ice sheets retreated and the climate became warmer.

And wildlife?

The site is very close to our nature reserve at Hauxley, one of the best wildlife spots in the north east. The reserve was created after opencast coal extraction finished. It has a diverse flora and fauna of wetland, scrub, coastal and meadow species. Look out for the orange berries of the extremely thorny sea buckthorn. The birds, waterfowl and waders, can be watched from the visitor centre and from hides by the ponds.

Where is it?

Hauxley Point, just east of Hauxley Nature Reserve.



Want to know more?

- Northumberland Wildlife Trust
- NNP Geodiversity Audit
- Onshore GeoIndex
- iGeology
- Geological history of Northumbria

