



Northumberland
Wildlife Trust

Newcastle building stones



What will I see?

The city of Newcastle upon Tyne give us a chance to see an amazing variety of rocks and we don't have to travel very far! The stone goes from sedimentary, to metamorphic, to igneous and from very old to geologically young, from local to exotic - with quarries as near as Kenton, and as far away as Norway.

How old is it?

The rocks vary – a lot! For example, the rocks of the Civic Centre have a huge age range; from the 460 million year old metamorphic rocks (schists from Norway) behind the River God Tyne, to the white fossiliferous Jurassic, 150 million year old, limestones (from Portland on the south coast) facing the tower and adjacent buildings.

Did you know?

The plinth of the 1914 war memorial – The Response - beside St Thomas' Church is granite from Shap in Cumbria. The entrances to Metro stations in town are also granite. Grey Street and its monument, the Theatre Royal and the rest of Grainger Town - are all constructed of local Carboniferous sandstones from places, like Denwick, Heddon, Springwell, Fourstones and Kenton.

Why it is here?

The 19th century architects and developers, like Dobson and Grainger, chose local sandstone too for their neo-classical rebuilding of the city centre. In the post-war years it was fashionable to clad buildings in more exotic stones – like the Portland Stone of the Civic Centre, or the granites facing many banks and shops.

And wildlife?

Kittiwakes famously nest on the Tyne Bridge and adjacent buildings, their furthest inland breeding sites in the world.

Where is it?

Newcastle city centre
[NZ250650].



Want to know more?

- **Historic England**
- **Chronicle**
- NNP Geodiversity Audit
- Onshore GeoIndex
- iGeology
- Geological history of Northumbria
- Carboniferous rocks

