



# Druridge Bay



## What will I see?

A beautiful 9 kilometre sandy beach and bay, between Hauxley and Cresswell, that's longer than any other on the Northumberland coast. It's backed by a set of sand dunes, and at times when the sea scours the shoreline, it reveals peat and the stumps of ancient trees.

## How old is it?

The beach is constantly moving and changing. Every day, with each tide, it has a different shape, profile and composition. So this is the youngest "rock" site in all our 50 sites. The oldest sand dunes are around 4,000 years old. The peat and the trees are around 7,000 years old and sometimes, if the sea erodes through the peat you will get a glimpse of glacial clay and stones underneath that is perhaps 15-20,000 years old.

## Did you know?

The ancient trees – sub-fossils – were once part of an extensive forest and land area that went all the way across the North Sea to the Netherlands. Ancient humans walked across from the continent!

## Why it is here?

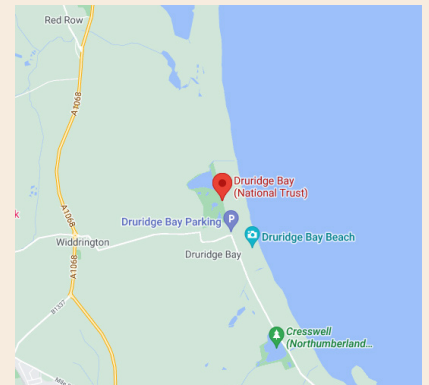
The bay lies between two rocky headlands. Usually bays form when that area of the coast is made of softer rocks than the headlands. The sea has farther to travel and less energy in a bay and so usually deposits sand and pebbles rather than removing them. The peat was once vegetation in a low lying, poorly drained area. Probably it was behind the dunes, which were then located somewhat further east before being driven onshore by the wind, and over the peat and trees – oak, ash and hazel. And sea level was lower at the time.

## And wildlife?

The Bay has several nature reserves. At Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Low Hauxley reserve you can find tea and cakes as well as information about the wildlife.

## Where is it?

North of Cresswell and south of Hauxley [NZ276984].



## Want to know more?

- Northumberland Coast
- NNP Geodiversity Audit
- Onshore GeoIndex
- iGeology
- Geological history of Northumbria
- Carboniferous rocks

