

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 26 MAY 1989

COUNTY: TYNE AND WEAR

SITE NAME: TYNEMOUTH TO SEATON  
SLUICE

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 23 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended.

Local Planning Authority: NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL, Blyth Valley District Council

National Grid References: NZ 346755, NZ 365716, NZ 373694

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 88    1:25,000: NZ 86, NZ 37

Area: Total:	97.9 (ha.) 241.9 (ac.)
Tyne and Wear	70.4 (ha.) 173.9 (ac.)
Northumberland	27.5 (ha.) 68.0 (ac.)

First Notified\* 1965

Date of Revision: 1989

**Description:**

The coast from Tynemouth to Seaton Sluice provides one of the best exposures of Coal Measures strata in Great Britain, showing a continuous lower Westphalian B sequence from the Plessey to the High Main seams. It includes outcrops of numerous coal seams, and several mudstone horizons yielding non-marine bivalve faunas, which together provide a tight stratigraphical control on the sequence. Of particular importance are outcrops of sandstone bodies, which have been interpreted as braided river deposits in marked contrast to the meandering river deposits which dominate the Pennines Coalfields to the south. This implies that the Northumberland Coalfield was formed in a more elevated area relative to the Pennines Coalfield, and was then probably rather further from the sea. The site is thus of considerable importance for interpreting the palaeogeographical structure of Britain during the Middle Carboniferous.

This section of the coast supports a significant proportion of the internationally important winter populations of purple sandpiper (over 10%), sanderling (over 10%) and turnstone (over 5%) which occur on the Northumberland coast. In addition there are locally important numbers of knot, ringed plover and golden plover.

**Other Information:**

1. This site has been identified as of national importance in the Geological Conservation Review.
2. During the 1989 revision this site has been amended to include land not previously notified\* and exclude some areas previously notified\*.

\*Under Section 23 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.