
31 Druridge Bay

Theme: Climate and landscape change

Location

North of Cresswell and south of Hauxley [NZ 273 984]. There is parking on the road west of the bay.

Description

Between Hauxley and Cresswell is a beautiful 9 kilometre sandy beach and bay 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.

The beach is constantly moving and changing. Every day, with each tide, it has a different shape, profile and composition. So this sandy bay is the youngest "rock" in this book. The oldest sand dunes are less than 6,000 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 15,000–20,000 years old.

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. You could have walked across from the continent — and ancient humans did!

The dunes are covered in marram grass but you will also find white clover, birds-foot trefoil and bloody cranes-bill. The Bay has several nature reserves near it run by Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

Photographs

(Photo 31-1) Part of the 9 km long sandy beach at Druridge Bay.

(Photo 31-2) Ancient tree stumps revealed by the tide at Druridge Bay.



(Photo 31-1) Part of the 9 km long sandy beach at Druridge Bay.



(Photo 31-2) Ancient tree stumps revealed by the tide at Druridge Bay.