How are Local Sites chosen?
Each Local Site is assessed on its wildlife and geological merits, informed by standard surveys carried out on the site.
Local Sites are then chosen according to selection criteria, which are prepared and agreed by the Local Sites Partnership, made up of local wildlife and geology experts.
Surveys of potential new Local Sites or re-surveys of existing sites are always carried out with the permission of the landowner.

For further information about Local Sites please contact:

For Northumberland:
Conservation Officer (Local Sites)
Northumberland Wildlife Trust
Tel: 0191 264 6884

For Newcastle-upon-Tyne:
Ecology Officer
Newcastle City Council
Tel: 0191 277 7195

For North Tyneside:
Biodiversity Officer
North Tyneside Council
Tel: 0191 043 7200

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NORTHUMBRIAN WATER
Working in partnership with:

North Tyneside Council
Newcastle City Council

NORTH PENNINES
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Photographs courtesy of Duncan Hutt & Alistair Bowden

Local Sites for Wildlife & Geology

Northumberland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and North Tyneside
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<th>What are Local Sites?</th>
<th>What does having a Local Site mean?</th>
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<td>Local Sites represent a network of areas with significant habitat, species and geological interest. They are designated as either Local Wildlife Sites or Local Geodiversity Sites according to their interest.</td>
<td>The owners and managers of Local Sites contribute greatly to the conservation of our important wildlife and geological features through the careful stewardship of their land. Maintaining the special value of a Local Site does not necessarily require any alteration to existing land management practices. It does not have any legal implications for the landowner, nor does it create any additional rights of way or access rights to the land. The importance of these sites means that they can potentially attract grant aid, including the Woodland Grant Scheme or Environmental Stewardship. The Local Sites Partnership, which oversees the selection of sites, can also provide free information on ways to maximise the wildlife or geodiversity value of a site.</td>
<td>Local Sites provide a significant contribution to the delivery of UK and Local Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Plan targets. Unlike Sites of Special Scientific Interest they receive no legal protection but are recognised through the planning system in planning policies. They are also included in the development of local plans, as well as being noted of special importance during planning applications. Local Sites provide essential wildlife refuges, stepping stones, corridors and buffers linking and protecting sites and open spaces found in towns and the wider countryside. This network of wildlife and geologically rich sites plays a vital role in the conservation of the UK's natural heritage, adding significant resilience to the pressures of modern living and climate change.</td>
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