

Leave the park at the back gates and cross over King Edward Road to the golf course. The remains of the bridge and waggonway can be seen over the fence. Cross back over the road and continue towards Tynemouth, passing a row of shops on the left-hand side. At the roundabout where Holy Saviours Church stands, turn right past the Metro station.

On the right is Tynemouth Station which was built in 1882. It is a Grade II Listed Victorian railway station. Its significance to the history of the area is considerable particularly in terms of industrial heritage, which is dominated by the development of the railway. In addition, the survival and intactness of the hydraulic lift machinery in situ is rare, making this an important feature of the station in both industrial heritage and architectural terms. On Saturdays and Sundays a traditional flea market is held within the station.

Tynemouth Station is used as a Metro station and if preferred the walk could terminate here. Alternatively, continue down Manor Road to the Village Green and at the end by Victoria Monument cross over and into Front Street. Continue to Tynemouth Priory.

North Shields Fish Quay



Situated together on the east headland of Front Street, the Priory and the Castle are historically, architecturally and structurally, the jewel in the crown of this conservation area and are reputed to be the burial place of two of the Kings of Northumbria, Oswin and Osred.

Turn right along Pier Road, cross the bridge and follow the path up the slope towards the car park with the Sailing Club on the left. At the crossroads continue straight over, keeping Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade Museum on the right.

The Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade was formed in 1864. The rail link between Tynemouth Station and the Northern Pier was erected as an industrial siding built for the Tyne Improvement Commission. It ran from the fish siding at Oxford Street to the block-making yard at the Howlings. This light rail line carried materials to the builders at the pier.

Continue along the coastal path below Collingwood's Monument.

The statue of Admiral Lord Collingwood, Nelson's second in command at Trafalgar, was erected overlooking the mouth of the Tyne in 1845. Walk back toward the fish quay.

From this promenade you can see the blue plaque, which refers to the notorious Black Middens rocks, which have long been a hazard to shipping entering and leaving the Tyne. On the 24th November 1864, 36 people lost their lives when the steamship 'Stanley' and the schooner 'Friendship' were swept onto these treacherous rocks by severe gales. This area has been designated as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). In the river grey seals are common and sightings of dolphins are becoming more frequent. Sandwich and common tern can also be found searching for food along the river, and arctic, little, black and the rare roseate terns use the river as a stopover point on their migration. Flocks of ducks and grebes also use the river in winter. The promenade leads to the Low Lights car park at the back of Clifford's Fort. Come out of the Fort area, turn left and continue back along the Fish Quay towards Borough Bank and the start of the walk.



Design: Stephen Burton

NORTH TYNESIDE

WAGGONWAYS



TYNEMOUTH WALK

This walk explores the fascinating historic features of the Fish Quay and Tynemouth. It takes in Northumberland Park and the remains of the former Blyth and Tyne Waggonway, where the old wooden revetment at the side of the track is still visible.

Start : North Shields Metro Station
 Distance : 5.5 km (3.3 miles)
 Time : 1.5 hours
 Terrain : Variable

Chaffinch



Start at North Shields Metro station. Leave the station and turn right along Railway Terrace, passing the Neville public house. Turn left down Borough Road, cross Saville Street West and continue down Borough Bank to the Fish Quay.

Crossing over Borough Bank is a steel footbridge. In 1839, the Newcastle & North Shields Railway Co. dug the New Cut to connect their station to the ferry landings. They had to make good their division of the Ropery Banks by building a laminated wooden footbridge which was replaced with a steel structure in 1937. Part of the original was sent to the National Railway Museum at York.

At the bottom of the bank turn left at the Porthole public house and continue along Clive Street, Liddell Street, Bell Street and Union Quay to the fish quay/market entrance (this was the site of the Whitley Waggonway Staith).



North Shields Fish Quay is located approximately 1km from the mouth of the River Tyne on its northern bank. Its origins date back to 1225 when a small settlement grew up around the mouth of the river at Tynemouth monastery. This settlement housed the fishermen who supplied the monks and lived in the 'shiel' huts from which the towns of North and South Shields derive their names.

Pass Union Quay stairs on the left and turn right at Vita House, noticing the clock that hangs over the street. Turn immediate left past the former Harbour Master's house, passing the Low Lights.

High Light and Low Light lighthouses - There have been leading lights at North Shields since 1540. Some were in wooden buildings, which could be moved as the sand banks shifted position on the river bed. The white tower at the top of the bank is the High Light and the Low Light is a similar building down beside the Gut. These two lights were first lit in 1810 superceding the two 18th-century lights, first lit in 1728.

On the left are the walls of Clifford's Fort. On reaching the river notice two sets of staiths which provide a resting place for roosting gulls, cormorants and shags at all times of the year.

Circle the fort, turning left into Clifford Street and enter the fort.

Clifford's Fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and its walls are Grade II Listed. It dates from 1672 and was constructed to defend the Tyne during the 3rd Dutch War. However, it did not see any military action and by the late 19th century was no longer required for artillery. The Tyne Electrical Engineers, or Submarine Miners, used it as a base until 1928.

Walk through the fort and leave at the exit next to Vita House. Turn right and continue past the New Dolphin public house. Continue along the Fish Quay, past Caley Fisheries and up Tanners Bank.

The steep embankment along the river is an important wildlife corridor. Over the years it has developed into an area of woodland with scrub and open grassland. It is now mature enough to hold breeding warblers with willow warbler, chiffchaff, blackcap and whitethroat.

The commoner resident birds like chaffinch, robin, black bird, great and blue tit are also present. Birds that are under pressure elsewhere like song thrush, linnet and house sparrow are common.

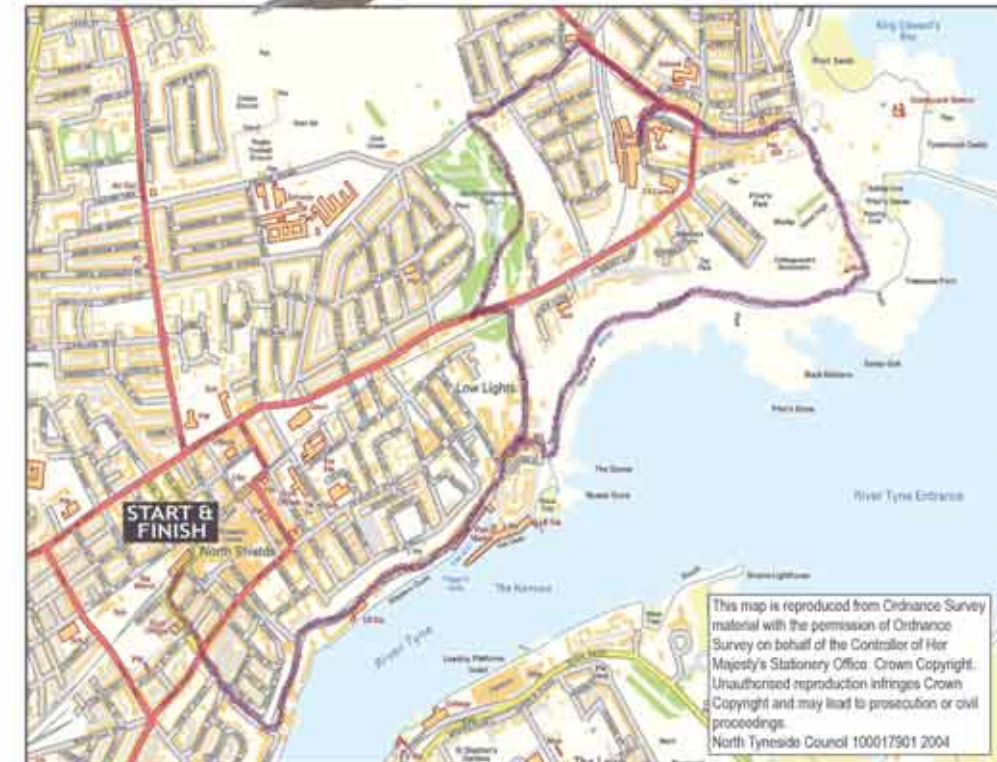
Cross Tynemouth Road and turn left to enter Northumberland Park.

From the main entrance head down the path, noticing on the right the old jail lock up, pass the playground and cross a small bridge.

Northumberland Park was created at the end of the last century in a small wooded valley known locally as 'Spittal Dene' and covers an area of approximately 12 hectares.

Some areas have been planted with ornamental species. Much of the park is characterised by native broadleaved trees and some areas have retained a remnant woodland ground flora. The trees are particularly important in attracting a variety of migrant and resident birds.

Just over the bridge take the small path on the right and then right again. A row of houses can be seen through the foliage on the right. Where they end take a small unsurfaced path to the right (see marker). On the land to the right can be found the remains of the former Blyth and Tyne Waggonway with the old wooden revetment at the side of the track still visible.



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