

13.2 NATURE CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS

Site Name	Grid Reference	Status	Habitat or Interest Feature	Area (ha)
Felling shore	NZ 280 631	SNCI	Riverside	3.8
Bill Quay	NZ 290 629	SNCI	Riverside grassland, intertidal mud & cliffs	6.1
Walker Riverside	NZ 298 640	SLCI	Intertidal mud, scrub	Not known
Habburn Riverside	NZ 300 640	SNCI	Riverside grassland, intertidal mud fringe	11
Willington Gut	NZ 310 660	SNCI	Saltmarsh	Not known
River Don estuary	NZ 339 658 - NZ 331 646	SNCI	Intertidal mud	9.75
Northumberland Dock	NZ 339 663	SNCI	Intertidal mud	30
Jarrow slake	NZ 344 657	SNCI	Intertidal mud	4.2
Black Middens	NZ 371 688	SNCI	Intertidal rocks	Not known
Northumberland Shore (from Scottish Border to mouth of Tyne)	NZ 372 688	SSSI	Coastal zone incl. Black Middens	1925.8
Durham Coast	NZ 375 680	SSSI	Coastal zone incl. South Pier	Not known
Northumbria Coast	Not known		Internationally important numbers of <i>Calidris maritima</i> , <i>Arenaria interpres</i> and <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Not known
Northumbria Coast	Not known		Internationally important numbers of <i>Calidris maritima</i> , <i>Arenaria interpres</i> and <i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Not known

Within 1 km of the proposed New Tyne Crossing is situated the Jarrow Slake SNCI, the River Don SNCI and Northumberland Dock SLCI. Jarrow Slake SNCI is an area of mud flat adjacent to the Tyne Car Terminal on the South Bank of the River Tyne. The site is composed of four areas of intertidal mud flat separated by man made piers. The site was formerly much larger but was reduced in size during 1970's due to land reclamation. Jarrow Slake was last surveyed in 1992 by the Marine Nature Conservation Review (MNCR) when it

was found that the area midshore was composed of patches of sand and more extensive areas of muddy sand. The MNCR recorded that the muddy sand had rich infaunal communities, characterised by species able to tolerate higher silt levels and a variable salinity such as *Corophium* sp. and *Hediste* sp (Brazier *et al.*, 1998).

On the south bank of the River Tyne is the River Don SNCI. This is an important wildlife corridor, which was recently surveyed by Young (Appendix 15) for this study. The downstream section of the River Don is tidal and contains some intertidal and saltmarsh species. Macroalgae, such as *Enteromorpha* and *Fucus vesiculosus* are supported as well as saltmarsh species (see Section 13.4.5 for more details).

At the entrance to the River Tyne, approximately 5km away from the proposed works is located the Northumberland Shore SSSI, which overlaps 11 other SSSI's, and covers most of the shoreline between the Scottish border and the Tyne Estuary. This part of the coast consists largely of sandy bays separated by rocky headlands and wave-cut platforms, backed by dunes or soft and hard cliffs. The SSSI provides important wintering grounds for shore birds. Two shorebird species (turnstone and purple sandpiper) are present in internationally important numbers and four shorebird species are found in nationally important numbers.

The Northumbria coast is a proposed Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and has been proposed as a potential Special Protection Area (SPA) under EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds. The site is of international importance because it regularly supports over 1% of the populations of purple sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) and turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). The site also supports more than 1% of the Great Britain population of the little tern (*Sterna albifrons*), thereby designating the site as of European importance. In addition, the site is frequented by nationally important populations of redshank *Tringa totanus*, sanderling *Calidris alba* and ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Populations of the Annex I species arctic terns *Sterna paradisaea* and golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* are also present at the site, but below the 1% qualifying level.

The coast from Tynemouth to Seaton Sluice has also been designated a SSSI under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, due to its geological importance. The site contains one of the best exposures of Coal Measures strata in Great Britain and also supports a significant proportion of the internationally important winter populations of purple sandpiper, sanderling and turnstone which occur on the Northumberland coast. In addition, there are locally important numbers of knot, ringed plover and golden plover.

57621/06 ref no. ④
File 26:11

DATE OF NOTIFICATION: 11 DECEMBER 1992

NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE & WEAR

NORTHUMBERLAND SHORE

Status:

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended.

Local Planning Authority:

Berwick upon Tweed Borough Council
Alnwick District Council
Castle Morpeth Borough Council
Wansbeck District Council
Blyth Valley Borough Council
North Tyneside Council
Tyne and Wear Development Corporation

National Grid Reference:

NT 980575 - NU 010525 & NU 165363 - NZ 365685

Ordnance Survey Sheets:

1:50,000 : 75, 81, 88
1:25,000 : NT95, NU05, NU13, NU23, NU22,
NU21, NU20, NZ29, NZ39, NZ38

Area:

1925.8 ha 47574 acres

First Notified:

1992

Site Description and Reasons for Notification

The Northumberland Shore includes most of the coastline between the Scottish border and the Tyne Estuary. This complements the Lindisfarne SSSI, which it abuts, in providing important wintering grounds for shore birds, and it is of international, or national significance for six species, purple sandpiper, turnstone, sanderling, golden plover, ringed plover and redshank.

The Northumberland shore consists largely of sandy bays separated by rocky headlands with wave-cut platforms, backed by dunes or soft and hard cliffs. Discrete areas of estuarine intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh are also included.

Annual counts carried out during the winters of 1983/84 to 1989/90 show that two species of shorebird are present in internationally important numbers (ie at least 1% of the East Atlantic Flyway population), turnstone (regularly over 1300) and purple sandpiper (regularly over 600). The populations of four other species regularly exceed 1% of the British wintering populations and thus are of national importance; i.e. 240 sanderling (1.6% of the British population), 370 ringed plover (1.6%), 1100 redshank (1.5%), and 3500 golden plover (1.8%).

These six wader species have varying habitat preferences. The purple sandpiper feeds almost exclusively on the extensive areas of inter-tidal rock platform, some flocks roost on man-made structures, with Blyth Pier regularly supporting over 250 birds. The sanderling and ringed plover typically utilise the sandy beaches such as Blyth South Beach and Druridge Bay. Turnstone and redshank are more generalised in their habitat choice. The former species tends to use the more rocky areas for feeding and especially for roosting, although it is commonly found along the seaweed-strewn strand-line of sandy beaches. Wintering redshank, occur in a wide range of coastal habitats and at various places also roost on nearby farmland. Golden plover make extensive, but intermittent use of many fields close to the foreshore in addition to their use of the inter-tidal area, however no agricultural land is included in the notified site. Along with other waders redshank and golden plover use the estuarine areas of the site.

The Northumberland Shore as a whole is used by a wide variety of other shorebirds in winter, including up to 400 curlew, 1000 oystercatcher, 2000 dunlin, 600 knot, 150 bar-tailed godwit and 4000 lapwing. Arctic and little terns breed on the shore during the summer. The inter-tidal zone is also favoured all year round as a feeding area for eiders, which are present along the coast in nationally important numbers and use the mudflats by the Coquet estuary as a feeding ground for their young.

Other Information

1. The Northumberland Shore fulfils the criteria for listing as a wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the European Community Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds.
2. This site overlaps with 11 other SSSIs, which are notified for a variety of special interests. These SSSIs, from north to south are: Bamburgh Coast and Hills, Newton Links, Castle Point to Cullernose Point, Howick to Seaton Point, Alnmouth Saltmarsh and Dunes, Warkworth Dunes and Saltmarsh, Low Hauxley Shore, Hadston Links, Cresswell Ponds, Cresswell and Newbiggin Shores and Tynemouth to Seaton Sluice.
3. The site abuts 3 further SSSIs: Burnmouth Coast in Scotland, the Tweed Estuary, which is of national importance for waterfowl populations, and Lindisfarne, which is notified for internationally important bird populations and other interests. Lindisfarne is also a SPA and Ramsar site and part is managed as a National Nature Reserve by English Nature.
4. Between Budle Point and the Coquet Estuary the SSSI lies within the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the North Northumberland Heritage Coast.
5. Part of the site falls within the Druridge Bay Country Park which is managed by Northumberland County Council.

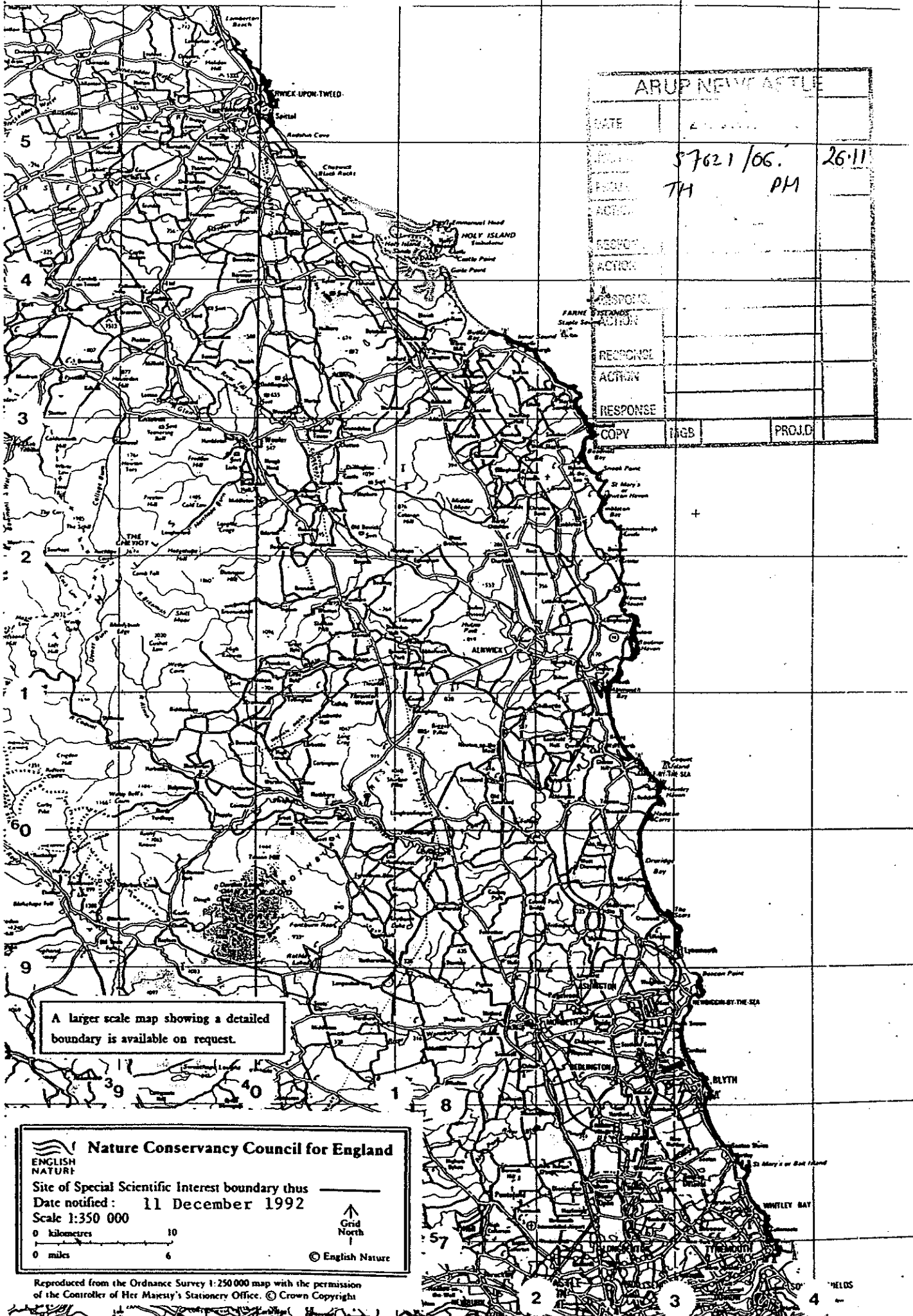
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NORTHUMBERLAND SHORE NORTHUMBERLAND

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A larger scale map showing a detailed boundary is available on request.

Nature Conservancy Council for England

ENGLISH NATURE

Site of Special Scientific Interest boundary thus

Date notified: 11 December 1992

Scale 1:350 000

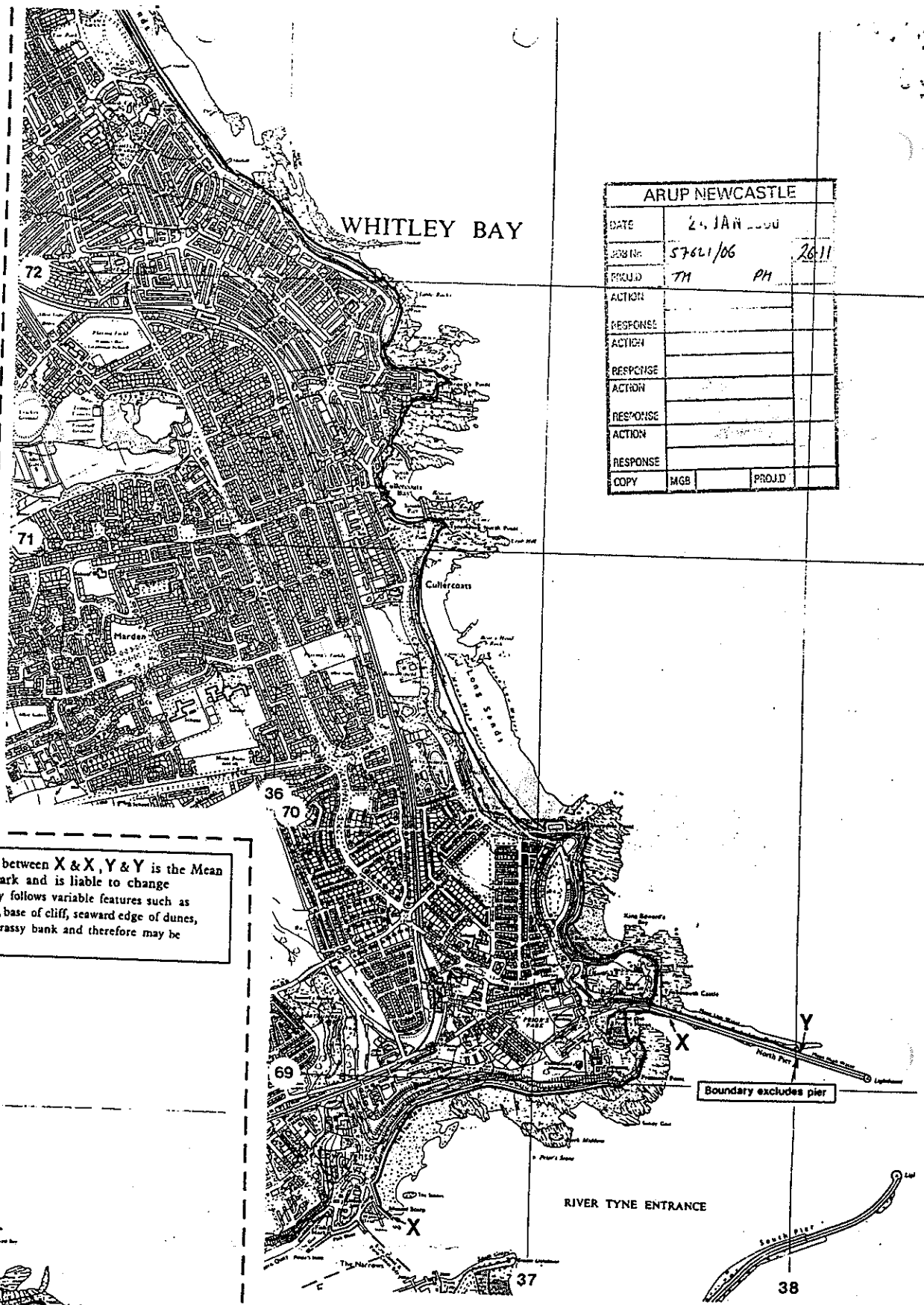
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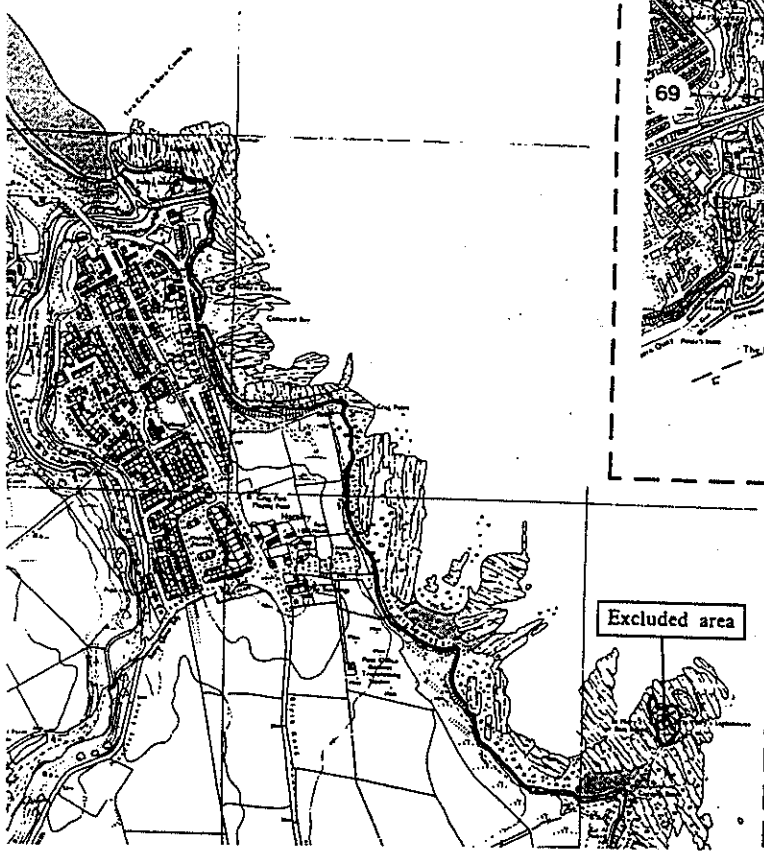
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The boundary between X & X, Y & Y is the Mean Low Water Mark and is liable to change. Inland boundary follows variable features such as base of sea wall, base of cliff, seaward edge of dunes, and mud cliff/grassy bank and therefore may be liable to change.



NORTHUMBERLAND SHORE
NORTHUMBERLAND

Nature Conservancy Council for England

Site of Special Scientific Interest boundary thus

Date notified: 11 DEC 1992

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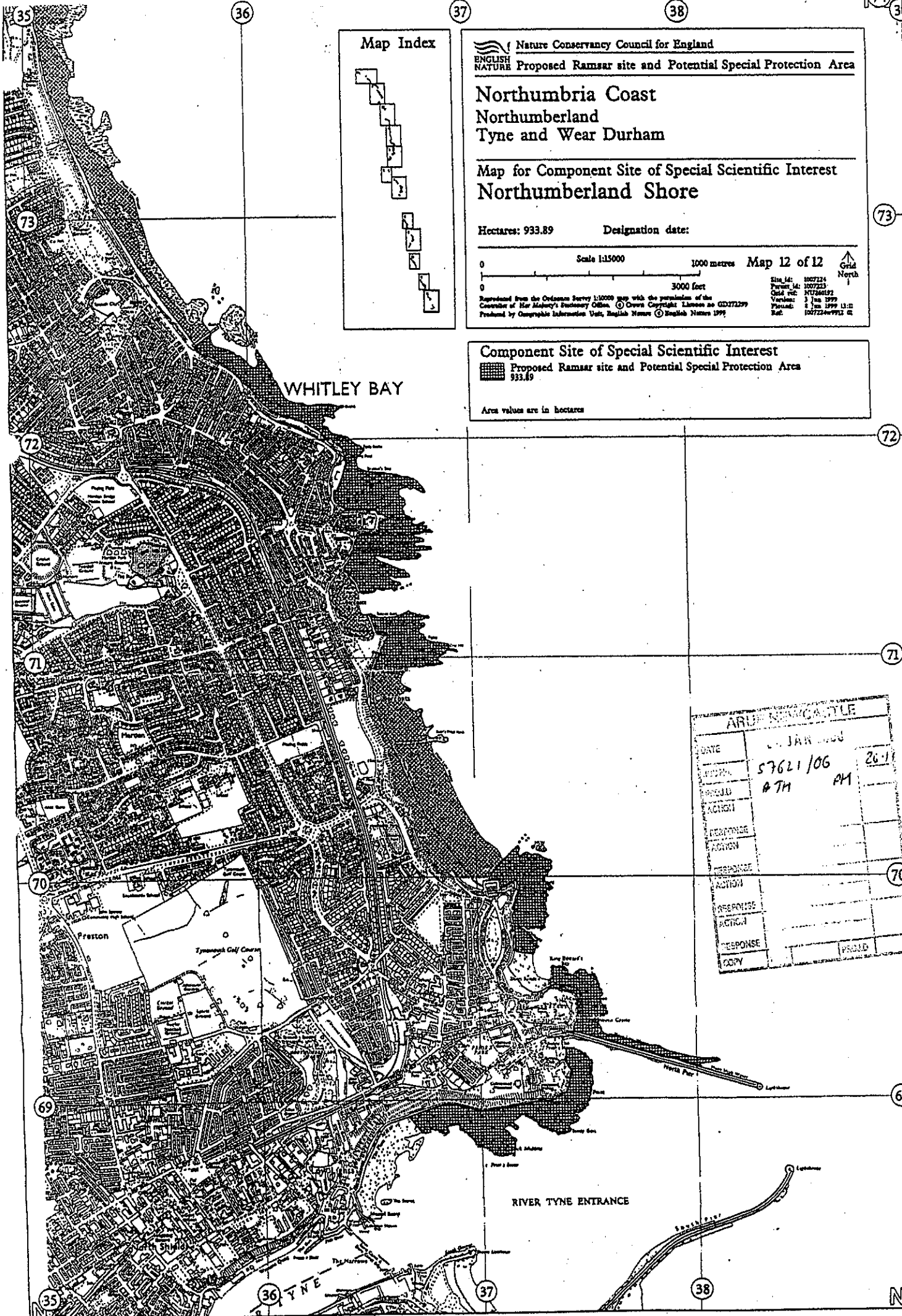
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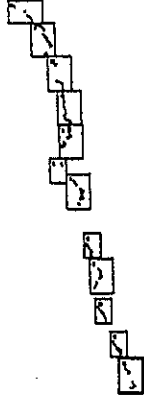
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LOCATION PLAN

MAP 6



Map Index



English Nature Nature Conservancy Council for England
 ENGLISH NATURE Proposed Ramsar site and Potential Special Protection Area

Northumbria Coast
 Northumberland
 Tyne and Wear Durham

Map for Component Site of Special Scientific Interest
 Northumberland Shore

Hectares: 933.89 Designation date:

Scale 1:15000 1000 metres 3000 feet Map 12 of 12 Grid North

Site No: 1007224
 Permit No: 1007223
 Grid Ref: NY7540197
 Version: 1 Jan 1999
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Component Site of Special Scientific Interest
 Proposed Ramsar site and Potential Special Protection Area
 933.89

Area values are in hectares

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TYNE AND WEARTYNEMOUTH TO SEATON SLUICE

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 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 hectares 241.9 acres
Tyne and Wear 70.4 hectares 173.9 acres
Northumberland 27.5 hectares 68.0 acres

First notified* 1965 Date of revision: 1989
Date of notification: 26/5/89

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.

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**The Tyne Estuary:
Conservation & Development Sites, North Tyneside (January 1999)**

General issues in North Tyneside section:

- extensive sheet piling forms hard edge to most of river frontage. Very few areas of soft riverbank or seaweed covered boulders for feeding and roosting waders.
- decreasing roosting and nesting structures adjacent to river due to development and refurbishment schemes.
- possible increase in future water-based recreational activities.
- water and sediment pollution due to chemical and industrial discharges.
- development of derelict land adjacent to river leading to reduction of roosting and feeding sites.
- limited planning controls in Enterprise Zones.
- limited access to river front has resulted in limited ornithological data being available.

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Specific sites & issues (see attached map for locations)

No.	Site	Details
1	Swan Hunter	Proposals to enlarge docks. Concerns re: contaminated river muds and disposal of special wastes & reclamation of site. More environmental assessment required. Limited scope for enhancement - possible small areas of landscaping, creation of boulder river frontage, etc.
2	AMEC Stephenson Street Enterprise Zone	Enterprise zone created by former Tyne & Wear Development Corporation - 10 year approval for industrial/commercial uses, with limited planning control. Proposals for large car storage area. Limited scope for nature conservation.
3	Willington Gut Saltmarsh SNCI	One of the very few relict saltmarshes left on the River Tyne. This is the only one with the characteristic middle saltmarsh community. Adjacent marshy grassland also of botanical interest. River front area used as small boating marina.
4	AMEC Potter Street	Enterprise zone created by former Tyne & Wear Development Corporation - 10 year approval for industrial/commercial uses, with limited planning control. Proposals for waste timber and chipboard processing plant. Limited scope for nature conservation.
5	AMEC CENARGO Howden Pans	Area for proposed 2 nd Tyne Tunnel crossing. Land to be used for equipment & machinery storage. Limited scope for nature conservation.
6	Northumbria Water. inc. Northumberland Dock SNCI	Large area of mesotrophic grassland and scrub adjacent to River Tyne (approx 30 Ha) with several bomb pools and a small saltmarsh. Birds include Curlew, Kestrel, Grey Partridge and Sandpiper. Plant species present include small populations of Yellow Wort (rare in

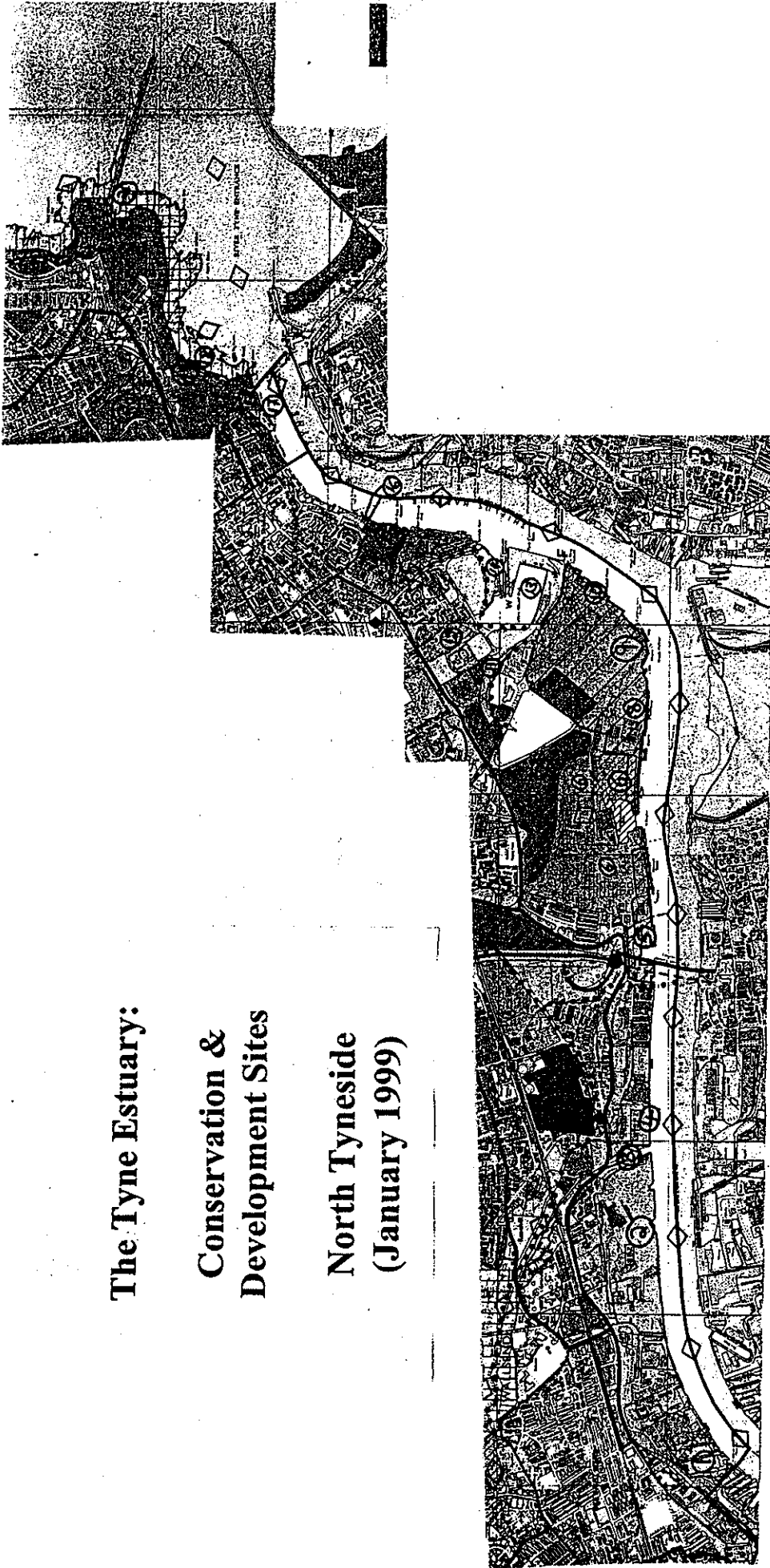
		formed by mean Low Water Mark while the inland boundary follows variable features such as the base of cliffs or the seaward edge of the dunes. This coastline regularly supports nationally important populations of breeding little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) and wintering golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>). The site also supports four species of tern in summer (all listed in annex 1 of 1981 W&C ACT). These are arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>), common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) and sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>). The site also supports internationally and nationally important populations of other birds.
19	Tyne Entrance SNCI	Grassy banksides with mammal population and associated birds of prey. Planted scrub an important first "drop in point" for migrant birds following the Tyne corridor. Grassy banksides overlooking the Tyne Estuary. Supports rare plant species whilst grassland and scrub vegetation support nationally declining bird species as well as numerous passerines on migration.
20	Northumberland Park SNCI	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 Ha some 0.5km inland from the Tyne Estuary. The Park is located on a local wildlife corridor and lies adjacent to the River Tyne Strategic Wildlife Corridor as identified in the Tyne and Wear Nature Conservation Strategy, 1988. Although 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 groundflora. The trees are particularly important in attracting a variety of migrant and resident birds.
21	Priors Haven	Boating and Yachting area

Dave Mitchell. North Tyneside Council, 5.1.99.

The Tyne Estuary:

**Conservation &
Development Sites**

**North Tyneside
(January 1999)**



8.0. RIVER DON SALTMARSH

General Description

The channel and margins of the river Don from its confluence with the river Tyne, upstream to St. Paul's Bridge supports intertidal mud. There is a narrow zone of saltmarsh above this which grades into the grassland of the river banks. Above St. Pauls bridge, the river channel narrows, but saltmarsh plants continue to be present until the bridge carrying the A185 road.

The downstream tidal part of the river Don was widened in 1992. An improved profile with shallower slopes was excavated, allowing the development of mud flats, and an island was created which partially compensate for the habitat losses at Jarrow Slake.

Saltmarsh vegetation and mud flats are present on both sides of the channel, but only the west bank was investigated due to difficulties of access to much of the east bank. The site was visited on 20 August 1998.

Description of Vegetation

The upper levels of the mud flats are vegetated with the seaweed bladder wrack (*Fucus vesiculosus*) and green algae (*Enteromorpha* spp.). There is a zone of pebbles, with occasional boulders, with salt marsh vegetation dominated by sea aster (*Aster tripolium*). Other typical salt marsh species present include common scurvy-grass (*Cochlearia officinalis*), sea spurrey (*Spergularia* spp.), sea poa grass (*Puccinellia maritima*), sea plantain (*Plantago maritima*) and oraches (*Atriplex* spp.).

The salt marsh species grade into neutral grassland, with occasional tree planting, which exists between the river and the Don footpath. Typical species include false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), common bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and wild carrot (*Daucus carota*). A variety of tree species are present in the young plantations.

The upstream saltmarsh communities contain fewer species and are dominated by sea aster and common scurvy-grass. The river banks include mature tree and shrub species including willows (*Salix* spp.) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).

Previous surveys have recorded plant species not detected including sea-purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*), hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale*), common mallow (*Malva sylvestris*), red dead-nettle (*Lamium purpureum*), pignut (*Conopodium majus*), hemlock water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), clustered dock (*Rumex conglomeratus*), meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis*) and barren brome (*Bromus sterilis*), but may refer to an area further away from the river.

Habitats

- A1.3.2. Mixed plantation woodland
- A2.2. Scattered scrub
- B2.1. Unimproved neutral grassland
- H1 Intertidal
- H2.6. Continuous saltmarsh

Plant Communities

The salt marsh vegetation has not been classified as the publication of the relevant NVC volume has not yet occurred. The adjacent neutral grassland is mainly MG1 *Arrhenatherum elatius*, but with maritime influences.

Notes on Fauna

Birds

At the time of survey, a flock of black-headed gulls were present (approximately 100 birds), with approximately 40 redshank. An individual sandwich tern on passage was also observed and the following were present as individuals or small groups:

Oystercatcher

Mallard

Magpie

Carion crow

Past surveys have recorded a variety of waders and wildfowl using the Don estuary including redshank, curlew, dunlin, ringed plover, lapwing, teal and mallard, with typical maximum numbers in the range 15-120. Less numerous visitors have included cormorant, heron, little grebe and snipe. A greater variety and numbers of water birds were recorded for the area when the survey area included Jarrow Slake.

Invertebrates

Numerous bumblebees were feeding on the sea aster.

Wall Brown and Meadow Brown butterflies were present in the adjacent grassland.

Pit fall trapping in a previous survey collected five species of ground beetle and 31 other beetle species. Mainly common species typical of grassland were recorded, but with some typical of damp habitats and a small number of rare salt marsh specialists.

Evaluation

Diversity

The salt marsh supports a relatively limited range of species but this is typical of the habitat. Not all of the possible species that could be present were recorded, but this could be attributed to the relatively small area of the site and its geographical isolation. The neutral grassland of the river banks is relatively species-rich.

Naturalness

Saltmarsh, in common with many other coastal habitats, is one of the most natural habitats that can be present in an area, being affected more by the estuarine environment than man. In the case of the river Don, it is not a pristine habitat, being affected by poor water quality, and is the result of habitat creation through excavation of the river channel and the small-scale planting of saltmarsh species. It is however, mainly the result of the natural colonisation of the substrate.

The adjacent terrestrial habitats (grassland, woodlands), are composed of man-made or modified plant communities.

Rarity

Saltmarsh is a very rare habitat in the region, and as a result the site supports several regionally uncommon species of plant such as sea aster, sea-spurrey and grass-leaved orache. Invertebrate records include the Notable b species *Grypus equiseti* and *Barynotus squamosus*, and the regionally notable *Phyllotreta nodicornis*. It is also one of the most important areas of intertidal feeding habitat for waders and wildfowl, including birds on passage, on the river Tyne and one of the few such sites between the nationally important sites of Lindisfarne and Teesmouth.

Representativeness

The Don estuary is the only example of intertidal mud flats and salt marsh in South Tyneside and is one of the best sites in Tyne and Wear. There is not the range of salt marsh species found for example at Teesmouth where the area of such habitat is much more extensive.

Fragility

Salt marsh is a relatively fragile habitat vulnerable to for example, pollution incidents. Waders and wildfowl are easily disturbed by human activity.

Position in Ecological/Geographical Unit

It is an isolated site with only small fragments of similar intertidal/saltmarsh habitat in other locations on the Tyne. The associated grasslands and plantation woodlands provide links to other similar habitats nearby. The river Don corridor is identified as a Local Wildlife Corridor in the Tyne and Wear Nature Conservation Strategy.

Size

The extent and development of salt marsh and mud flats is limited by the topography, with adjacent development resulting in constraint of the river channel. The width of salt marsh vegetation is narrow due to the steep banks of the channel.

Potential Value

The habitat value and species diversity of the site may improve with time and with improvements in water quality.

Replaceability

Habitat creation at the site has demonstrated the feasibility of providing suitable conditions for the natural development of salt marsh and associated intertidal habitats.

Other scientific criteria

There is no recorded geological or other importance.

Recorded History

Documentation exists of the historical nature conservation importance of Jarrow Slake and the effects of development pressures on the site, including the feasibility of compensatory habitat creation to ameliorate the habitat losses there in a report prepared by the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. A short description of the site is in the 1985 SSCI report and a description of the beetles and vegetation are given in a report prepared by Tyne and Wear Museums in 1991.

Intrinsic Appeal

The site provides a natural contrast to the surrounding port developments.

Educational Value

The site provides an accessible area of high nature conservation interest, although care will be needed to prevent over-use, disturbance to birds etc.

Community Value

Areas adjacent to the river are an important area of green space used for informal recreation and the surrounding area also has significance for tourism with its archaeological/historical importance.

Summary of Important Features

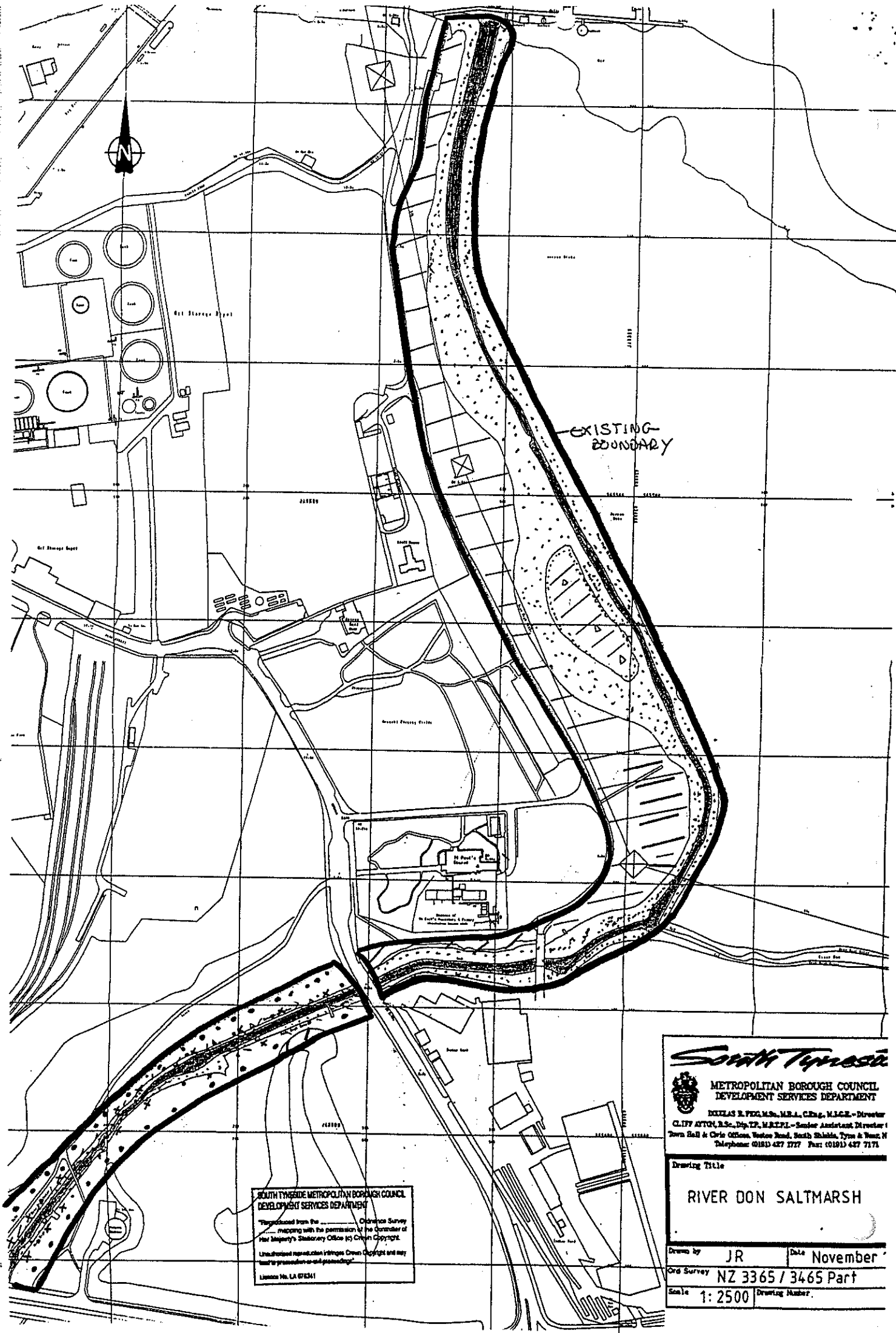
The river Don estuary is a site containing locally and regionally rare habitats with regionally/locally rare dependent species of plant and animal. The saltmarsh is of particular importance.

Conservation Management Recommendations

Maintenance of the species diversity of the adjacent grassland will require meadow management to take place although uncut refuge areas should be retained for invertebrates and small mammals. The nature conservation value of the adjacent tree planting areas would be enhanced through the long-term removal of non-native species.

Designation

It is recommended that the River Don Saltmarsh is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest. The adjacent grassland is recommended for inclusion as it is an important buffer habitat and has some intrinsic value being locally species-rich.



EXISTING BOUNDARY

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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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South Tyneside

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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 Town Hall & Civic Offices, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, N
 Telephone: (0191) 437 3717 Fax: (0191) 437 7171

Drawing Title
RIVER DON SALTMARSH

Drawn by **JR** Date **November**
 Ord Survey **NZ 3365 / 3465 Part**
 Scale **1: 2500** Drawing Number

ref no. 8

SITE NAME JARROW SLAKE
LOCAL AUTHORITY SOUTH TYNESIDE MBC
OWNERSHIP PORT OF TYNE/NISSAN
GRID REFERENCE NZ 344 657
STATUS SNCI
AREA

DATE OF ENTRY May 1998. **UPDATED**

SITE DESCRIPTION

A now restricted area of mud flat adjacent to the Nissan Terminal on the south bank of the River Tyne.

SITE EVALUATION

Diversity - 1. Habitat -Mud restricted in its diversity by river pollution. Disturbances from bait digging may be a problem on occasions. The effect of the operation of the car terminal could usefully be studied but may be negligible.

2. Species - The site is most important as a winter feeding and roost site, attracting a wide range of species including golden plover, redshank, ringed plover, curlew and a variety of gull species. In summer the area is also utilised by arctic, common and sandwich terns.

Naturalness - Formerly an important wetland site regionally, the Slake is now reduced to a very small area of inter tidal mud. The mud flats exhibit semi natural characteristics but are now heavily influenced by the construction of the Nissan car terminal.

Rarity - Inter tidal mud habitat is locally rare on the Tyne, particularly so close to the estuary. Golden plover, redshank, ringed plover and turnstone are all species of international importance although populations using the site have not recently been quantified. A single first winter roseate tern was noted on 21.8.96.

Representativeness - Typical inter tidal mud flats for the River Tyne.

Fragility -Easily damaged by further construction work. Although some mud flat would reform in this situation, it would be restricted in size due to the presence of deep water and invertebrate communities may not easily re-establish. The effects of disturbance have not been quantified.

Position in ecological/geographical unit - This site forms an important link in the strategic wildlife corridor formed by the river. The adjacent River Don adds further importance to this link.

Potential Value - wildlife value of the site could be increased by a reduction in river pollution levels.

Replaceability - Once destroyed, mud flats are very difficult to replace in river pollution levels.

Other Scientific Value -

Recorded History - References to the importance of Jarrow Slake and development pressures placed upon it have been recorded since 1873 (Nature Conservation and Estuaries in GB - NCC). Available data seems hard to obtain probably because of the private nature of the area, but RSPB and Durham bird club records exist.

Intrinsic Appeal - Only revealed at low tide, exposed mud is visually unpleasant despite its high natural value. Access is severely restricted, but small areas can be viewed from the River don area..

Educational Value -Lack of access prevents educational use of the site.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION

These four areas of inter tidal mud, separated by man made piers, are situated on the south bank of the River Tyne close to the estuary (part of which is a proposed Special Protection Area for wintering birds). Inter tidal mud is a scarce resource nationally on rivers and in this location is even more uncommon.

Mud dwelling invertebrates are present (bait digging occurs) so food is available for wintering and migrant wading birds. Numbers have not been verified since the construction of the car terminal, but a low tide visit in August 1996 showed the site to be diverse. Species recorded during that visit included 200+ redshank, curlew,

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dunlin, turnstone, ringed plover, golden plover, arctic and common terns, sandwich tern, one roseate tern and a variety of gull species. This compares favourably with other designated sites on the river.

There is very little land available for the development of a strand line but where present the site is likely to be used by wagtails and pipits.

EVALUATION

The loss of a larger areas of mud flats that formerly comprised Jarrow slake has placed increased pressures on the remaining inter tidal mud flat resource. The wildlife value of all remaining habitat is thus increased. together with the important role that the river plays as a strategic wildlife corridor as identified in the Tyne and wear nature Conservation strategy and its subsequent review it is recommended that the area of mud left by development, and exposed between the mean high water and low water ,arks, retains its SSCI designation. Additional survey information would verify this recommendation.

SITE MANAGEMENT

Non intervention would allow natural development of additional mud and possibly small areas of salt marsh. Reduction of pollution levels on the river would further increase the natural value of the site.

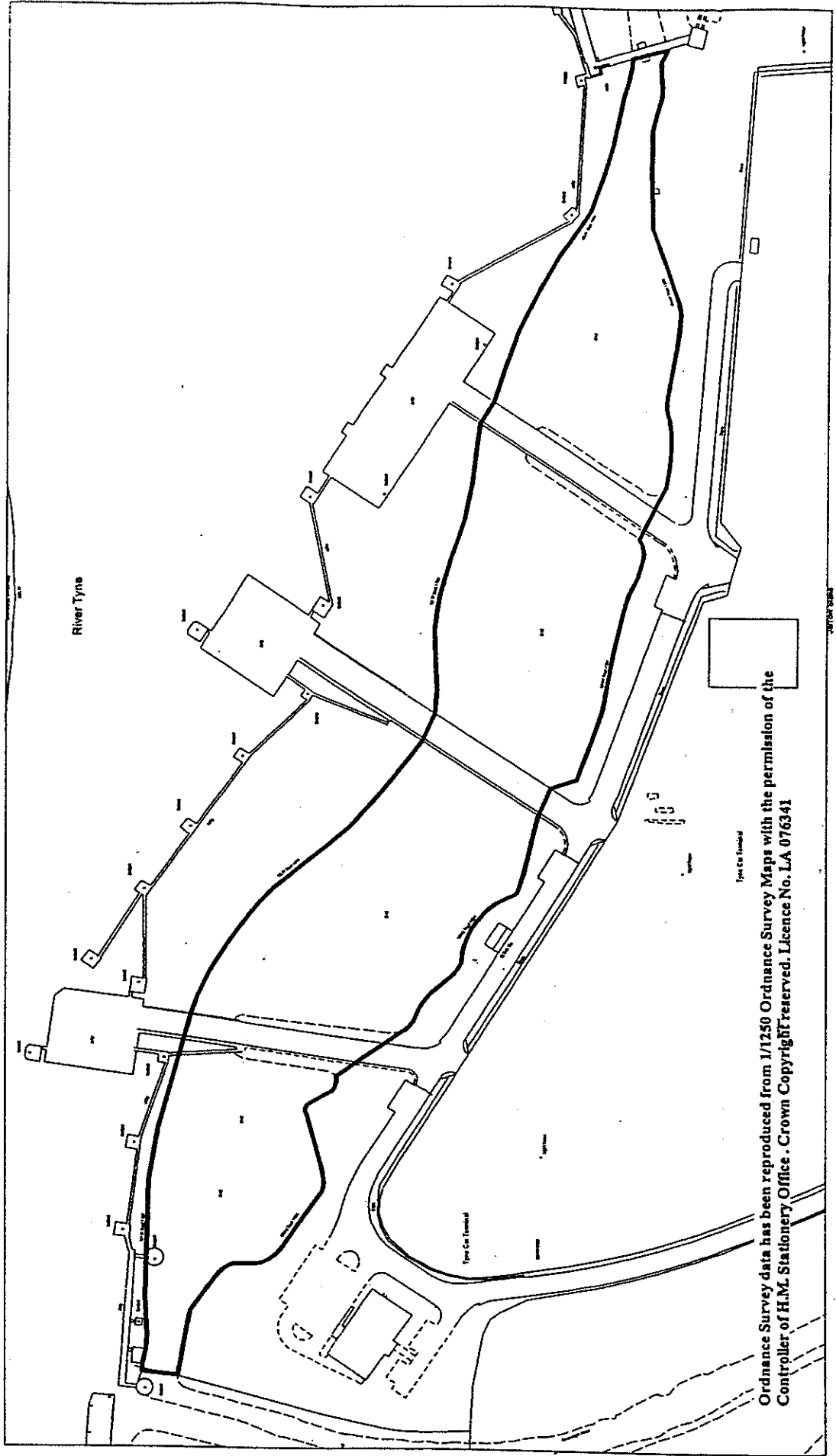
COUNCIL RECORDS

Emerging UDP SSCI.

Objection to designation by Port of Tyne following publication of UDP, which was subsequently withdrawn. Boundary change to site following this objection.

SOUTH TYNESIDE UDP PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

Development Services



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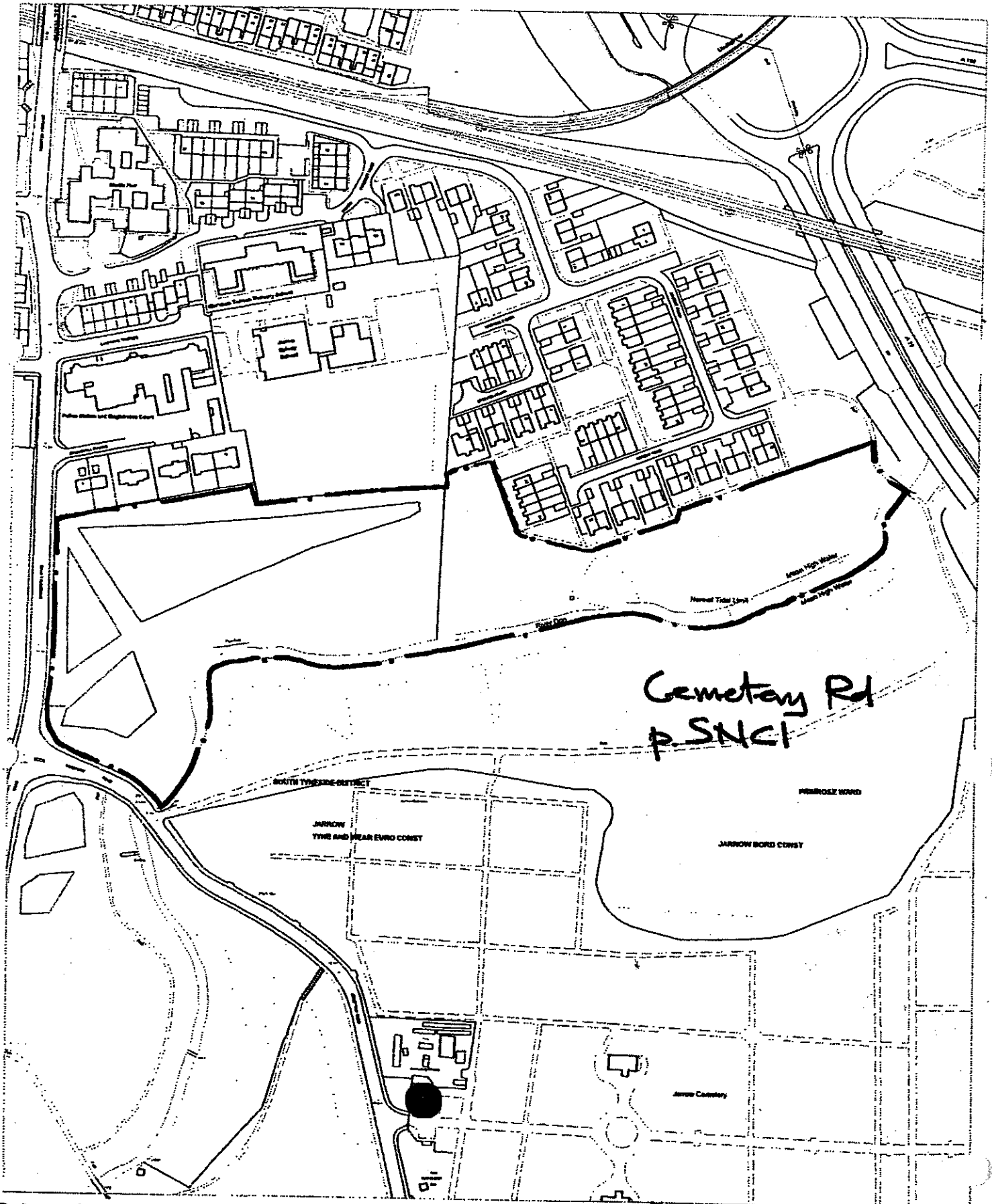


28 - JARROW SLAKE - SITE OF NATURE CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE - REVISED BOUNDARY



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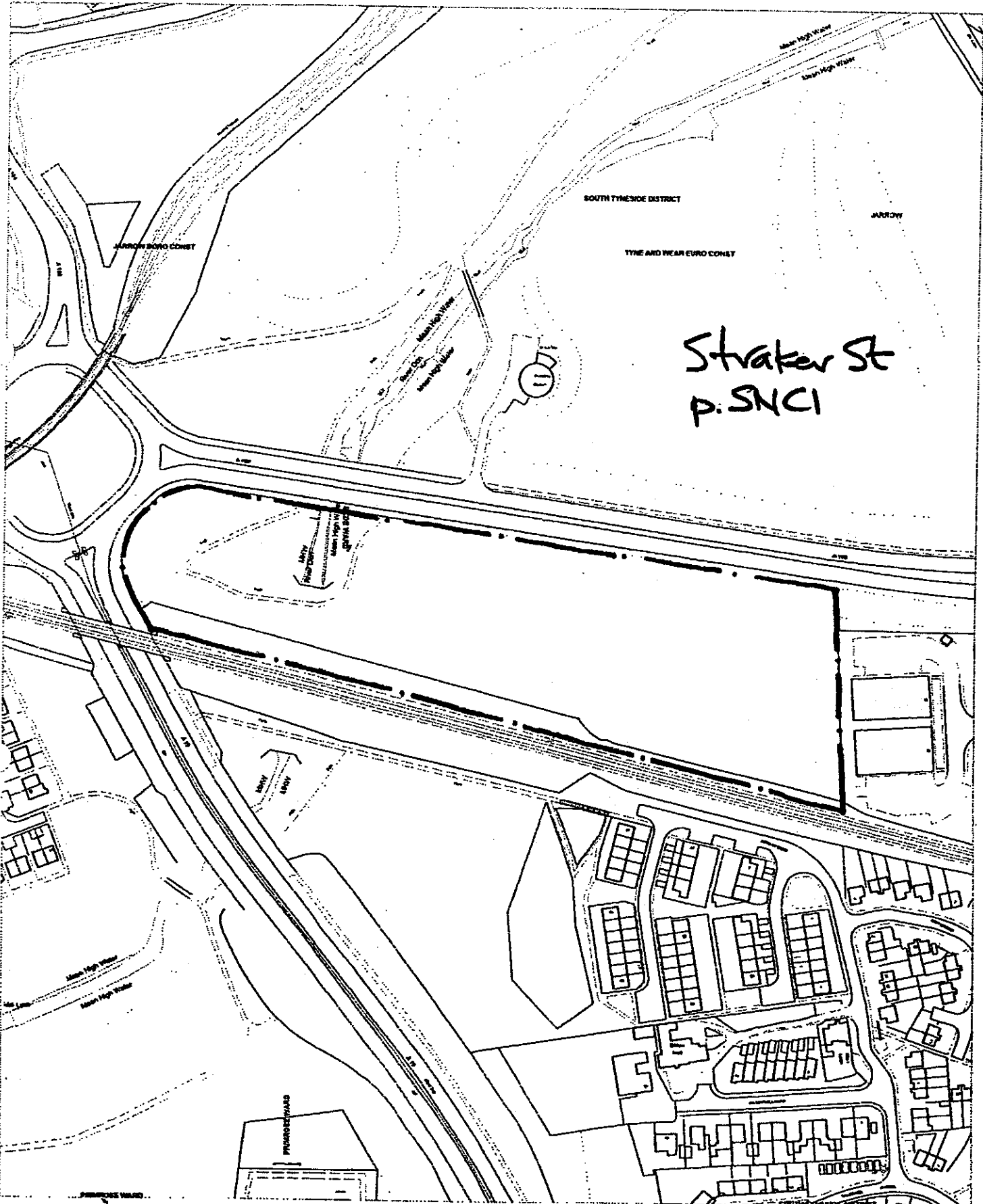


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