



### **Yellow Rattle**

May – September

**Description:** Semi-parasitic on grasses. The seeds rattle inside the fruit/pods when ripe.

**Habitat:** Grassland.

### **Where is Tunstall Hills Local Nature Reserve?**

The main access to Tunstall Hills is off Leechmere Road, Sunderland; the changing room car park, grid reference NZ395543. There is also access via Tunstall Road to the northwest and National Cycle Route 1, Silksworth and Ryhope to the south. For information on local bus services please phone Traveline North East on 0870 608 2608.

### **Paths, gates and seats**

There is open access to the site on foot. Paths are uneven to rough with some steep and very steep slopes (up to D5 on the Break Free scale). The surface material varies from compacted stone, earth and short grass to long grass, loose stone and ruts. There is no seating or sign posting.

### **Would you like to know more?**

For more information or to report sightings of wildlife please see our website or contact:

Countryside Team  
Development and Regeneration  
Services  
Civic Centre  
Sunderland  
SR2 7DN  
Tel: 0191 553 8773  
Email: [countryside@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@sunderland.gov.uk)

[www.sunderland.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/countryside)

For information on the local friends group contact Tunstall Hills Protection Group on 0191 528 6476 or 0191 528 4659, or log on to [www.communicate.co.uk/ne/thpg](http://www.communicate.co.uk/ne/thpg)

Photographs by [www.northeastwildlife.co.uk](http://www.northeastwildlife.co.uk)

  
**Sunderland**  
City Council

As part of Sunderland's commitment to a balanced and sustainable future this leaflet is printed on paper made from 80% recycled post consumer waste. Please recycle it again after use by putting it in your Kerb-it box or your paper bank.

Designed and printed by City Print  
dev13670

Copyright Sunderland City Council 2007

# Go wild...

## Tunstall Hills Local Nature Reserve



  
**Sunderland**  
City Council

**Go wild and explore Sunderland's green spaces and easy-to-visit countryside places. Sunderland City Council helps you enjoy the breath of fresh air on your doorstep with this useful guide.**

Tunstall Hills is an exciting site to explore the geology of Sunderland's ancient barrier reef and one of the best viewpoints in the City.

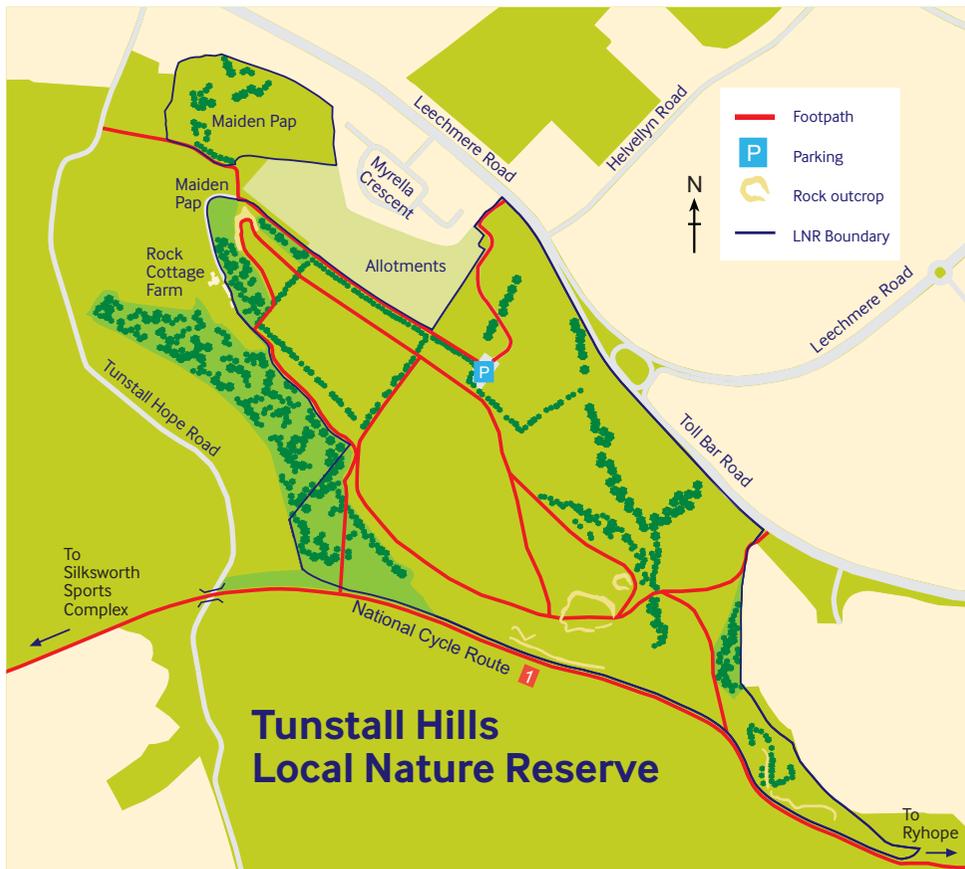
Tunstall Hills and Ryhope Cutting were formed when Britain was near to the equator, some 240 million years ago. The area was part of a tropical barrier reef stretching for at least 20 miles, from what is now Downhill (north Sunderland) south to Hartlepool.

From spring to autumn a wide variety of flowers can be found on the ancient Magnesian Limestone rock, species such as common rock-

rose, wild thyme, blue moor-grass, thrift and autumn gentian.

The grasslands are a hunting ground for kestrels, and home to smaller birds that nest in the hawthorn and gorse such as whitethroat, linnet and

yellowhammer. Invertebrates too like the meadows, and you can spot butterflies such as dingy skipper and small heath along with more common ones such as small tortoiseshell, red admiral and common blue.



**Dingy Skipper**

May – June

**Description:** Wingspan up to 28mm with a complete row of white dots on the margin of the forewing. Birdsfoot trefoil is its main food plant.

**Habitat:** Grassland and scrub.



**Blue Moor-grass**

April – June

**Description:** Swathes of this grass and its purple-blue flowers (spikes) cover the Magnesian Limestone rock.

**Habitat:** Grassland.



**Common Rock-rose**

May – September

**Description:** Low growing, shrubby lime-loving plant.

**Habitat:** Grassland and rocky places.



**Wild Thyme**

June – September

**Description:** Small, hairy, mat forming aromatic herb.

**Habitat:** Dry grassland, heath and rocky places.