



Housey Crag



What will I see?

Housey Crag is a spectacular **Tor** - a natural rock castle that sticks up on the hillside. From there are great views of The Cheviot, our highest mountain and the Harthope Valley.

How old is it?

The volcanos in this area erupted about **400 million years ago**. The lava covered most of northern Northumberland.

Did you know?

When these volcanos were erupting Britain was **30 degrees south of the Equator** not 55 degrees north like now.

Why it is here?

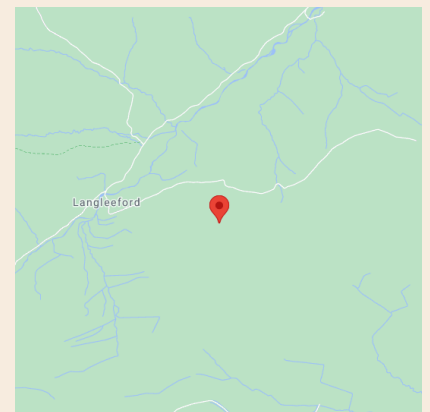
These crags are made of rocks that erupted violently as molten magma from a volcano. The rocks are called **andesites**. Shortly afterwards they were heated up and hardened by the molten Cheviot granite. Millions of years of erosion has left them poking out of the ground. It's like a Dartmoor tor but a bit more battered, because, unlike Dartmoor, it was eroded by an ice sheet during the last glaciation.

And wildlife?

Surrounding the Crag the grass/heather moorland is managed for red grouse. Skylark, meadow pipit and curlew are common in the spring and summer and you might see a common lizard. The Crag has good lichen cover and a range of mosses.

Where is it?

In the Harthope Valley, southwest of Wooler [NT957218]. It's a 2 kilometre walk there and back from the road.



Want to know more?

- NNP Geodiversity Audit
- Onshore GeoIndex
- iGeology
- Geological history of Northumbria
- Geology North

