



Bradford Kaims



What will I see?

A striking, sinuous, steep-sided ridge, called an esker, winding north-south across the landscape. It's about 15 metres high and more than 3 kilometres long. It's made of sand and gravel with some silt and clay. It's a very important UK scientific site – a SSSI and is one of very few geological features explicitly named on an Ordnance Survey map!

How old is it?

The ridge was formed around 15,000-20,000 years ago in a tunnel beneath the ice sheet during the last glaciation of northern Britain.

Did you know?

We are currently living in a warm period between ice ages – so in a few 10s of thousands of years the glaciers will return. In the last ice age all of Scotland and much of northern England, as far south as Doncaster, was covered by an ice sheet that was in places almost 1,000 metres thick.

Why it is here?

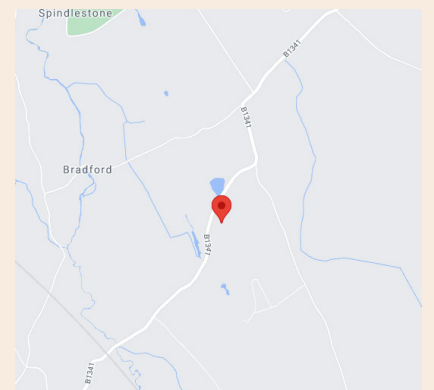
When the climate warmed and the ice sheet began melting it left a covering of clay and stones over most of the land. But in some places, where rivers carried meltwater and debris from the glacier, it left sand and gravel. Sometimes this was deposited in tunnels under the ice (eskers) and sometimes as deltas and fans in lakes next to the ice. The esker is within a complex of meltwater deposits.

And wildlife?

Left largely to nature, with a tangle of bramble, gorse and bracken, useful for birds such as linnet and song thrush to feed and nest in. But you may also see buzzards, sedge warblers, skylarks, willow warblers, whitethroats and spotted flycatchers.

Where is it?

Between Bamburgh and Lucker.



Want to know more?

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

