



# Cuddy's Crags



## What will I see?

A fantastic and extensive view of the Whin Sill and Hadrian's Wall, arguably one of the best views of all the Whin Sill and the Roman Wall marching eastwards. The hard dolerite of the Whin Sill forms steep cliffs facing north.

## How old is it?

The Whin Sill was injected into local Carboniferous rocks 295 million years ago. But there have been millions of years of erosion since which has left the hard dolerite standing proud.

## Did you know?

That all the ups and downs of Hadrian's Wall and the National Trail along it are a result of ice and meltwater during the last ice age eroding through the Whin Sill ridge? So you can blame geology for those tired legs after you have finished your day's walking!

## Why it is here?

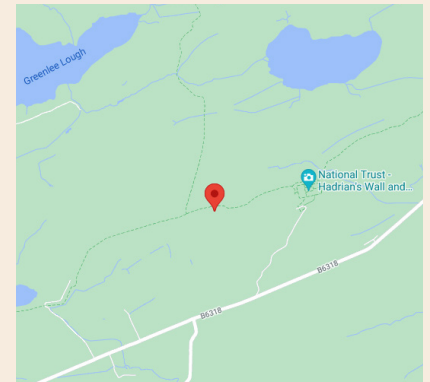
The rock is here because billions of tons of molten magma was injected from deep in the Earth in between the layers of Carboniferous limestones, sandstones and shales. Then it cooled and solidified and contracted forming those prominent vertical cracks and fissures.

## And wildlife?

The Wall is home to the common lizard, stoat, nesting wheatear, maidenhair spleenwort and wall rue. Thyme and lady's bedstraw grow both on the Wall and alongside it. Skylark, meadow pipit and raven soar. Further west rock-rose delights. Golden-scaled male-fern clothes the Crag's northern face.

## Where is it?

750 metres west of Housesteads fort [NY783686]. The Hadrian's Wall bus service stops here and there is a large car park at the Housesteads Visitor Centre.



## Want to know more?

- **Walking trail**
- **Virtual tour**
- NNP Geodiversity Audit
- Onshore GeoIndex
- iGeology
- Geological history of Northumbria
- Carboniferous rocks

