



Duddo Stones

What will I see?

Five standing stones up to 2.3 metres high made of well weathered and naturally sculpted sandstone. Some say there were originally 6 or 7 stones, then only 4 until a fifth was added in the early 20th century. The views over Northumberland from the site are panoramic and dramatic, especially towards the Cheviot hills.

How old is it?

The stones were erected by Neolithic or Bronze Age people around 4,000 years ago. The sandstone is Carboniferous in age and over 330 million years old.

Did you know?

That early archaeologists said that they found charcoal and pieces of bone in a pit in the middle of the Duddo Stones. This might have been from a human burial.

Why it is here?

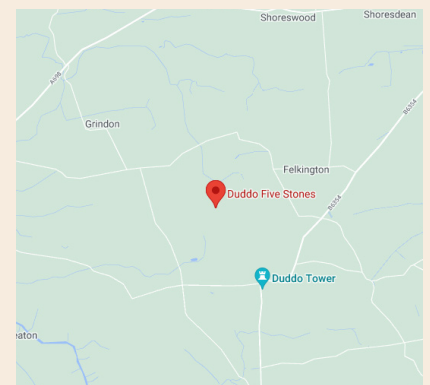
Experts say they do not fully understand exactly what these stone circles were for. But they must have been important ritual sites. Maybe they were for the burial of the dead, or perhaps for calculating the seasons and astronomical events. Or perhaps they were a place that people would gather. Or maybe all of these reasons? What we do know is that, while it was for very different reasons, rocks and stones were just as important in their lives as they are in ours today.

And wildlife?

While the area directly around the stones has been left fallow, the land around is arable, growing cereal crops. Look out for bullfinches, redstarts and yellowhammers in the hedges. You may also see buzzards, kestrels, wheatears, linnets and meadow pipits.

Where is it?

It's just north of the village of Duddo [NT930437]. A landowner has kindly agreed to a Permissive Path through his fields. There is parking for a few cars on the grass verge but please park as far off the road as you can.



Want to know more?

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

