



# Lumsden Law



## What will I see?

When you drive up to Scotland on the A68, just after Catcleugh reservoir and before Carter Bar, you'll see a big flat-topped hill to the east. The hill is called Lumsden Law and geologists think it could be a volcanic "plug" – that is lava that solidified in the neck of a volcano.

## How old is it?

This volcano erupted about **345 million years ago**, so it's Carboniferous and younger and different in composition to the Devonian lavas of the Cheviots.

## Did you know?

While they have lots of volcanic rocks of this age in Scotland there are very few rocks like them over the border. Lumsden Law was formed in a similar way and around the same time to the rock that Edinburgh Castle stands on.

## Why it is here?

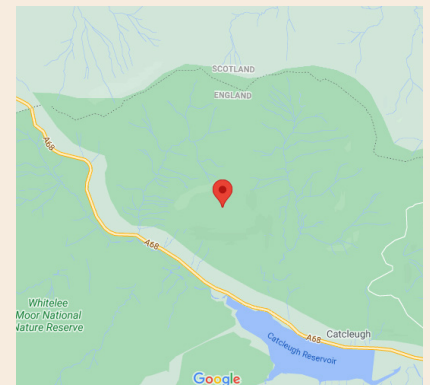
During this period of the Carboniferous in southern Scotland and here at Lumsden Law there was a lot of volcanic activity – the molten magma cooled to produce a rock called a basalt. You can see the rock close-up in an old quarry on the Law's western flank; a broken face will show some quite large crystals in a darker fine-grained matrix – that's a texture geologists call porphyritic – a new word to win with at Scrabble!

## And wildlife?

There is a fine view westwards across the A68 into Northumberland Wildlife Trust's largest nature reserve, Whitelee Moor. The higher ground has some of the best blanket bog in England, and below is upland heather heath. A boardwalk from Carter Bar gives access.

## Where is it?

800 metres, north east of Ramshope Lodge on the A68 [NT722050]. It's a rough walk to the quarry and on up the hill, but the views are great.



## Want to know more?

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

