



Queen's Crag



What will I see?

A very large angular sandstone boulder that has become detached from the crag that is just to the south of it. It looks like a giant tooth, or rabbit's ear and you can see it from miles away.

How old is it?

The sandstone is Carboniferous and about 320 million years old. The separation of the boulder from the crag probably happened as the last ice sheet melted away 15,000 years ago.

Did you know?

That just a few metres east of the boulder along the crag and under an overhang, there is a Roman inscription. Two Centurions and an Optio (an "under-centurion") carved their names in the rock, possibly while sheltering from the weather.

Why it is here?

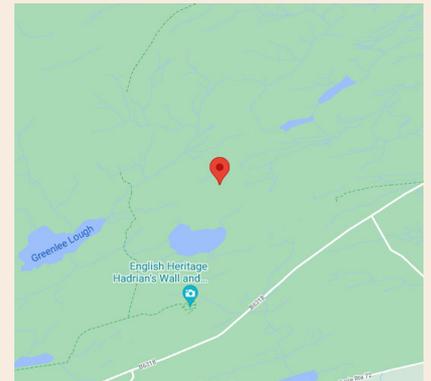
The boulder has been eroded from the sandstone bedrock escarpment and fallen over, leaving it at steep angle. This probably happened during the melting of the ice and the permafrost after the last ice age.

And wildlife?

Sandstones produce acidic soils. Bracken is growing on the top of the crags, and in front is a mixture of heather and purple moor-grass. The grass is our only deciduous one, and blows around in winter.

Where is it?

Where is it? North of Hadrian's Wall. You can reach it by walking from Housesteads visitor centre. [NZ794705].



Want to know more?

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

