



Great Standrop



What will I see?

A castle of granite rock – a tor - standing proud after the rock around it has been weathered and eroded. The views from the top of the tor are amazing. If you see “fresh” granite on a broken rock face it shows the white, pink and black minerals that it’s made of (quartz, feldspar and biotite).

How old is it?

The granite is 400 million years old and was formed in the Devonian Period. But the weathering of the rock and it’s formation as a tor has taken millions of years since and particularly during the ice age – the last 2.6 million years.

Did you know?

Great Standrop is not as high as Little Standrop which is just to the north and west of it! Little is 543 metres above sea level while Big is 535 metres above sea level.

Why it is here?

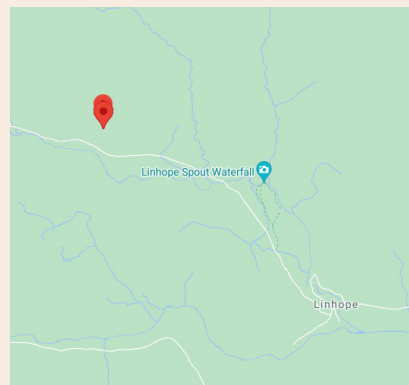
Tors form because their rock is more resistant to erosion than the immediately surrounding ones. Usually this is because the joints (cracks) which let in the soil water that rots the rock, or breaks it up by frost action, are further apart. Our tors, unlike the Dartmoor ones, have been battered by glaciers, so are not quite as prominent.

And wildlife?

The moorlands are a mosaic of heather, acidic grassland, bracken and, on higher ground, blanket bog. They are managed for grouse and sheep. The blanket bog also has heather, mixed with hair’s-tail cotton grass, and there are also the bramble-like leaves of cloudberry. Meadow pipits are the commonest birds, and common lizard and adder are around – do avoid the latter.

Where is it?

At the head of the Breamish Valley. Follow the road as far as Hartside Farm [NT976 163] and park on the grass verge east to the east. The walk to Great Standrop is a 9 km round trip, with some steep sections through heather – but the views are worth it.



Want to know more?

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

