



# Kielder Stone



## What will I see?

A huge block of Fell Sandstone that sits in wild heather moors right on the border between England and Scotland, where it's called the Kielder Stane. It is a long way from any road and a real challenge to reach.

## How old is it?

The Fell Sandstone is around 340 million years old. It's Carboniferous. The ice sheets that eroded and may have detached the stone were active around 20,000 years ago.

## Did you know?

As with all very large stones the Kielder Stone has many legends and stories associated with it. One, noted by Sir Walter Scott, says that if you go around it withershins (anti-clockwise) three times it will bring bad luck. It is said to be a place where people would meet and families would drop letters during the times of the Border Reivers.

## Why it is here?

The layers (beds) in the sandstone vary in grainsize and show how sand was originally carried down by a large river whose flow rate was constantly changing. The Stone is a massive piece of sandstone that has been left exposed after millions of years of erosion, particularly by ice during the last glaciation. It is not a true erratic as it has not moved that far from its original position as part of the Fell Sandstone bedrock.

## And wildlife?

Growing on the Kielder Stone are cowberry, bilberry and crowberry, and on the rock faces, because of the pure air and high humidity, shaggy lichen species. These are declining and rare elsewhere because of air pollution. You may see feral goats in the vicinity.

## Where is it?

About a 5 kilometre hike from Deadwater, or a 10 kilometre hike north from Kielder Castle. Both over rough terrain.



## Want to know more?

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

