

Great Asby Scar Local Geological Site Gleaming pavements and special plants

What you can see here

- Spectacular limestone pavement between Orton and Great Asby, part of Great Asby Scar National Nature Reserve
- Many natural and cultural features linked to the geology

Entirely on Access Land, with many paths. Public rights of way from Orton and Great Asby

Access from several roads – please park considerately

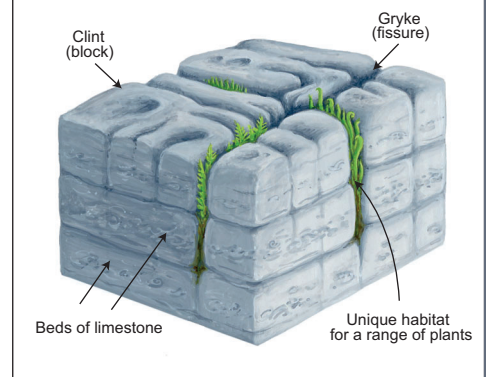
Take care when walking on limestone pavement



This stunning area contains some of the finest **limestone pavements** in Britain. These sloping expanses of pale rock, scraped by ice in the last major **glaciation**, represent the surfaces of the layers or beds that make up the limestone sequence. The pavements are divided into blocks (**clints**) and fissures (**grykes**), and are beautifully furrowed by runnels and grooves. All these features formed by **dissolution** of the limestone in rainwater, which is slightly acidic.

The limestone is part of the **Great Scar Limestone Group**, which formed in the early **Carboniferous Period** when northern England was covered in shallow **tropical seas**. Limy, shelly mud on the sea floor eventually hardened into limestone.

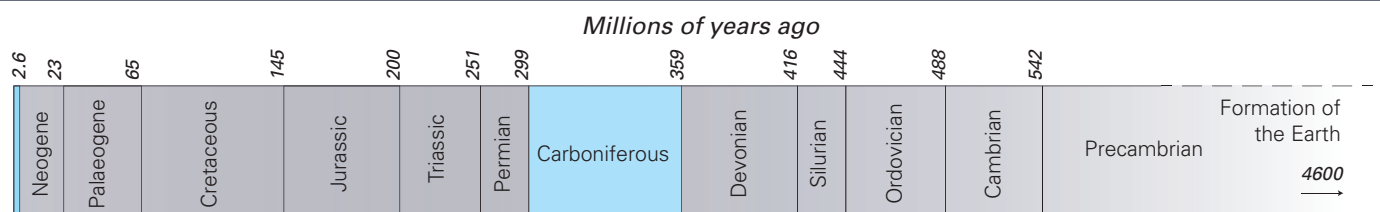
The pavements at Great Asby Scar are an important habitat for specialised and rare plants, and at Castle Folds there are the remains of a Romano-British settlement.



- Public right of way
- Coast to Coast Walk

Images

- Limestone pavement stretching into the distance on Great Asby Scar
- Limestone pavement features
- Herb robert, hart's-tongue fern and dog's mercury growing in a gryke



In this geological timeline the coloured intervals indicate periods represented by rocks and features at this site



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