
The geological framework

At the heart of the area's geodiversity is the succession of rocks, which together comprise and characterise the North Pennines. In the following pages, deposits of particular geological ages, together with intrusive igneous rocks, metamorphic rocks, mineral veins, geological structures, minerals and fossils are reviewed separately. In addition, topics such as Frosterley Marble, geological models and spar boxes, many of which are of particular local importance, or in some instances unique, to the AONB are also given separate consideration.

For each of these topics, essential details of their defining characteristics are outlined, together with comments on their place within the wider context of the geology of Great Britain. The impact of these geological features or materials on landscape and biodiversity, as well as any economic uses, are also considered. Sites currently afforded any form of protection are listed and some of the most significant literature sources also referenced.

[Full references](#)