

The Otterburn Ranges

Controlled ACCESS AREA

⑥ Darden Lough

(red route on map)

A well marked walk into the Fell Sandstone of the Simonside hills, with spectacular views from the heights. Distance 7.5 km (4.5 miles)

Start: Park in the lay-by on the Rothbury to Elsdon Road (B6341) and go through the gate. Follow the trail until the bridge over the Grasslees Burn.

Cross the bridge and head SE up the hill following the white posts to Darden Lough 3.5km. From the Lough, head WSW for 500m to the cairn.

Return 3.5km by the track heading NW and then NE back to the starting point.

Around 350 million years ago a shallow tropical sea washed against the bare volcanic hills of the Cheviots. Massive river deltas fed into it pushing great fans of sands and silts westwards. These compressed into the rocks of the Carboniferous period (about 354 to 290 million years ago) that form the crags and hills of this part of Northumberland.

The craggy outcrops of Fell Sandstone that you can see from the walk up to Darden Lough were once sands swept along in the currents of these ancient rivers.

