



Dartmoor Rock

The 370,000th Millennium Exhibition

... Time destroys

*His Statues, and his columns, and his domes,
Flings his triumphant arches to the ground,
And gnaws the names of heroes and of kings,
E'en from the marble tablet . . .*

. . . while here, unhurt -

Wed almost to eternity - secure . . . while here, unhurt -

Wed almost to eternity - secure

*In their own strength, proud baffling all the rage
Of the defeated elements, and all
The ceaseless injuries of time - remain
The columns of the wilderness.*

NT Carrington, from Dartmoor a Descriptive Poem, 1826

In their own strength, proud baffling all the rage

Of the defeated elements, and all

Introduction

We rarely stop to think about the ground beneath our feet and yet it is fundamental to life itself - providing scenery and habitats, soils for agriculture, and raw materials for building and industry.

The Dartmoor landscape is dominated by rocks - tors, gullies, boulder fields, stone walls and buildings.

This exhibition explores the fascinating story of the creation and moulding of Dartmoor rock starting nearly 400 million years ago and continuing today. Humans first appeared on Dartmoor a mere 10,000 years ago and our own lifetimes seem a trifle in comparison! Nevertheless, the interaction between geology, farming, wildlife, archaeology, industry and water supply revealed here reminds us all of our dependence on the Earth's resources for our future.

Welcome to this celebration of Dartmoor's earth heritage.



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The exhibition is working towards conservation objectives outlined in *Action for Wildlife: The Dartmoor Biodiversity Action Plan*.