

Site reference: SX77SW 2

Name: Leigh Tor

District: Teignbridge

Parish: Widecombe in the Moor

National grid ref: SX 712714 **OS sheets:** 1:50k 191 1:25k SX67/77 1:10k SX77SW GS 1:50k 338

Locality description (address): Leigh Tor, 2.2km NNE of Holne.

Nature of site: Tor with large clutter of loose blocks, particularly downslope from the tor

Geological/geomorphological features:

Dyke-like body of quartz-veined tourmalinised hornfels up to about 10m wide. Most of the tor is somewhat disturbed with many large blocks rotated, but the lower part of the tor is mainly in situ. The body cuts Crackington Formation hornfels within the granite aureole and extends west north westwards towards the granite and across it far to the west. It also extends over several kilometres east-south eastwards in the Carboniferous rocks. It is probably associated with a major regional steep fault structure.

The rock consists of a dark matrix of tourmalinised hornfels cut by a dense anastomosing network of cross cutting quartz veins with some drusy cavities into which grow quartz crystals. The structure was probably subjected to repeated movements and brecciation.

Much debris of hornfels can be seen to the south and west-south-west of the tor.

Reasons for registration as Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site:

A good example of quartz/tourmaline rock occurring outside the granite, most occurring in the granite. It is probably worth more mineralogical study.

Site sensitivity: None known

Safety: A lot of the rock is slippery, particularly in the rain, and care has to be exercised in climbing about on it.

Interest groups: **University.** Undergraduate - Research Professional Geologists - Amateur Geologists - General Public

Access & Parking:

Only about 200m from the main road and there are small car parks nearby.

Date of assessment (V = Visited): V 1998 E C Freshney

Site Owner: Common Mr J Simpson, Spitchwick Manor, Poundsgate

Other comments:

References:

Reid, C R Barrow, G Sherlock, R L MacAllister, D A Dewey, H & Bromehead C N 1912. The Geology of Dartmoor, Memoirs of the Geological Survey of England & Wales, London.

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