

SITE

Name: Blackingstone Rock

Parish: Bridford

Local Authority: [Dartmoor National Park](#)

National Grid Ref: SX 786 856

OS Sheets: 1:50k 191 1:10k SX78 NE, **GS Sheet** 1:50k 339

Locality Description: Granite tor beside the Bridford - Moretonhampstead road.

Nature and Status of Site: Large tor-type outcrop of the Dartmoor Granite. A County Geological Site (www.devonrigs.org.uk).

Summary of Geological / Geomorphological Interest: A fine example of a Dartmoor granite tor exhibiting many of the typical features of the Dartmoor Granite. The granite is coarse grained with particularly large crystals of feldspar. A display board describing the tor, including an outline of the geology, is provided by the National Park Authority.

Site Sensitivity: Scarring and otherwise damaging the rock surface by hammering or collecting rock samples would not be acceptable. The rock surfaces support extensive and varied growths of lichens which should not be damaged. All features of geological interest are accessible from paths.

Safety Considerations: Access on to the tor itself is via vertical metal steps which could potentially be a safety hazard.

Educational Age Groups: Primary, Secondary, College/6th Form, University.

Parking and Access: Steady ascent by footpaths from car park beside the road. Access for coaches would be difficult. There are regular bus services to the nearby village of Moretonhampstead from Exeter and Newton Abbot. For timetable details, visit www.traveline.org.uk.

Site Owner: [Dartmoor National Park Authority](#), Parke, Bovey Tracey. Telephone. 01626-832093

References:

Selwood E B. and others. 1984. Geology of the Country around Newton Abbot. Memoirs of the British Geological Survey, Sheet 339. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office.

Taylor, R T, & Freshney E C Report on the Assessment of County Geological Sites in the Dartmoor National Park (prepared for Dartmoor National Park Authority) *ERC Report 98/371* (Earth Resources Centre, University of Exeter, 1998)

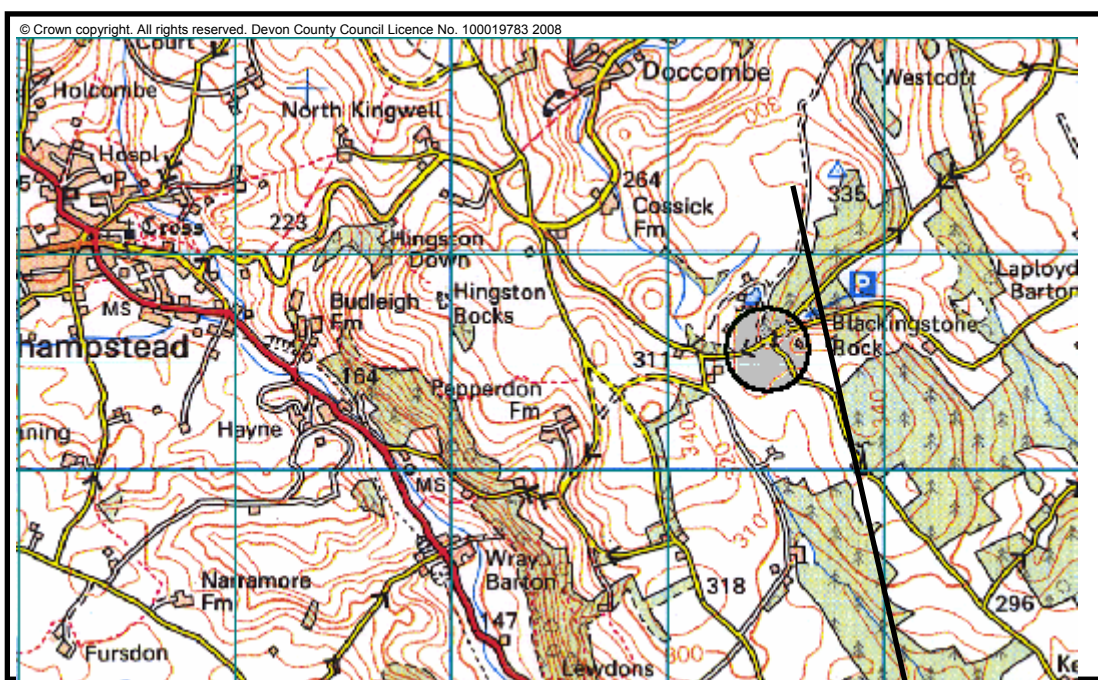
For further information on the geology and geomorphology of Dartmoor go to: www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk/

Detailed Geology: Typical ridge-top tor of Permo-Carboniferous Dartmoor Granite. Coarse grained, biotite granite with large feldspar megacrysts. The granite contains xenoliths and dark aggregates of tourmaline. The tor displays characteristic jointing, both shallowly inclined tabular joints and more widely spaced steeply inclined joints.

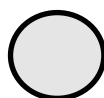
LOCATION PLAN

BLACKINGSTONE ROCK BRIDFORD, DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

National Grid Ref: SX 786 856



Scale 1:35,000



Site
locality

Blackingstone
Rock:
Granite tor beside
Bridford to
Moretonhamstead
Road

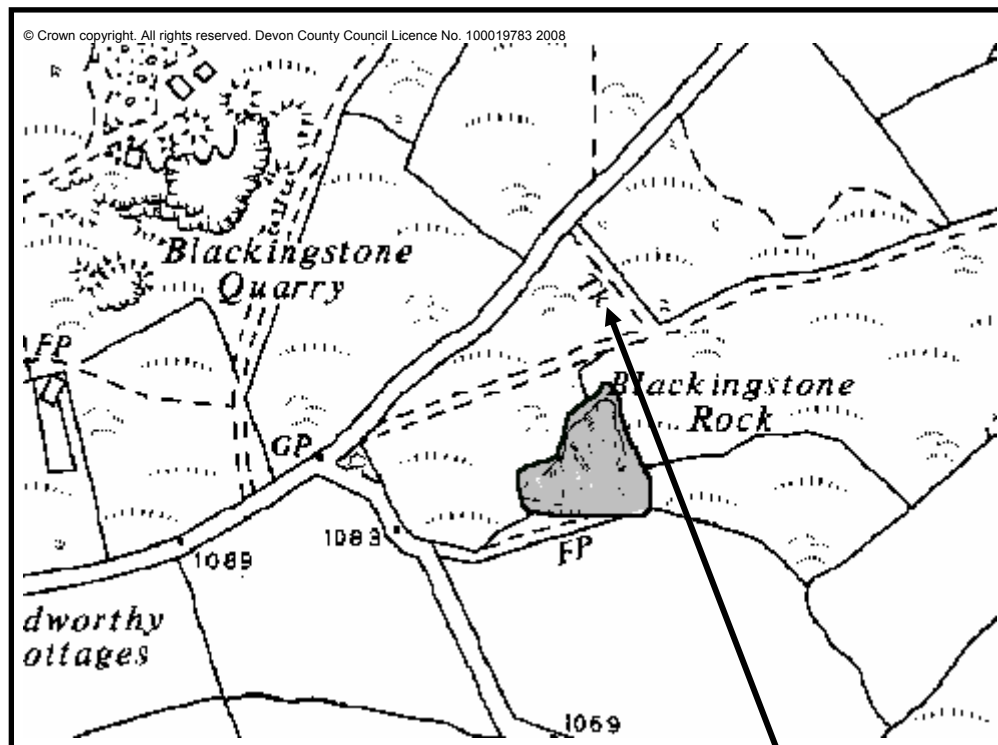
Parking and Access

- Car parking beside the road with steady ascent by footpaths from here to site. Access for coaches will be difficult.
- There are regular bus services to nearby Moretonhamstead from Exeter and Newton Abbot. For timetable details, visit the [traveline](http://traveline.co.uk) website.

SITE PLAN

BLACKINGSTONE ROCK BRIDFORD, DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

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Approx. Extent of Site

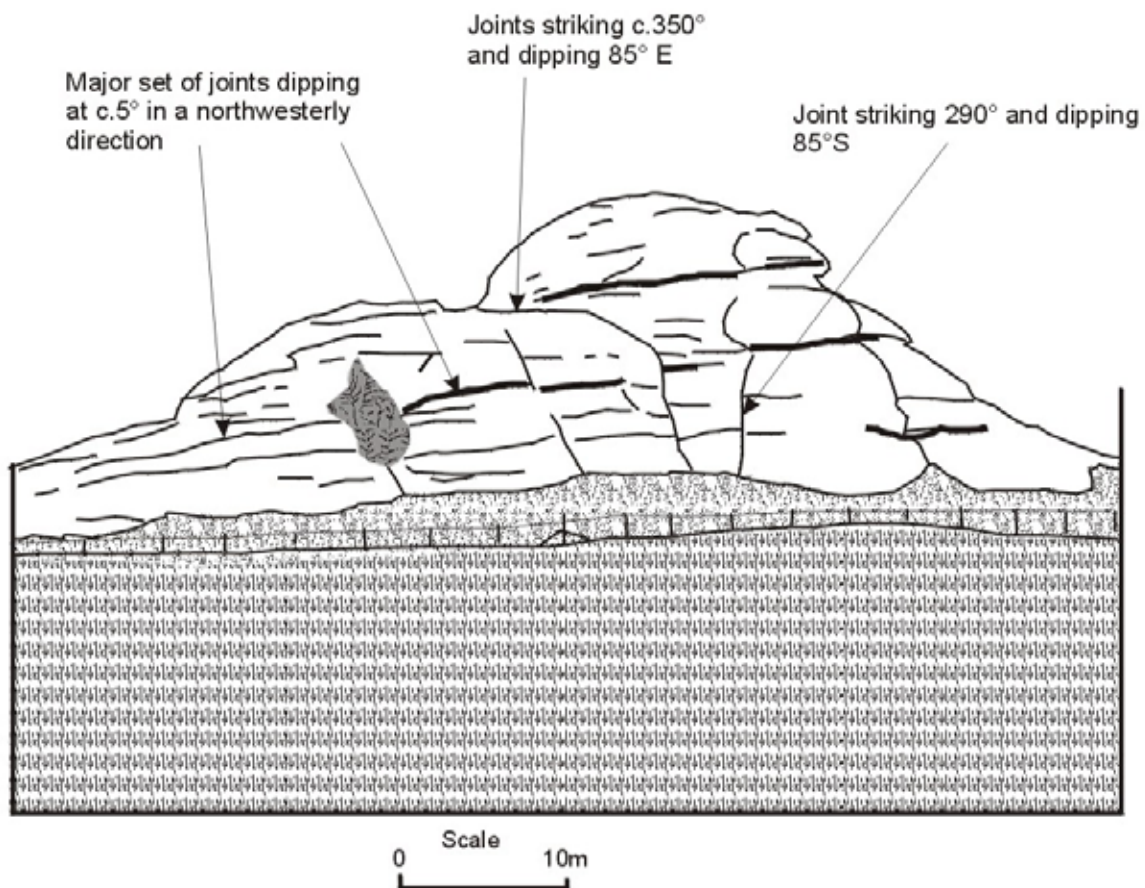
Scale 1: 5,000

Car Park

Main Points of Interest:

- A fine example of Dartmoor granite for exhibiting coarse grains with large crystals of feldspar and jointing.
- Interpretative panel in car park and excellent viewpoint from top of tor.

View of Blackingstone Tor from the SSW



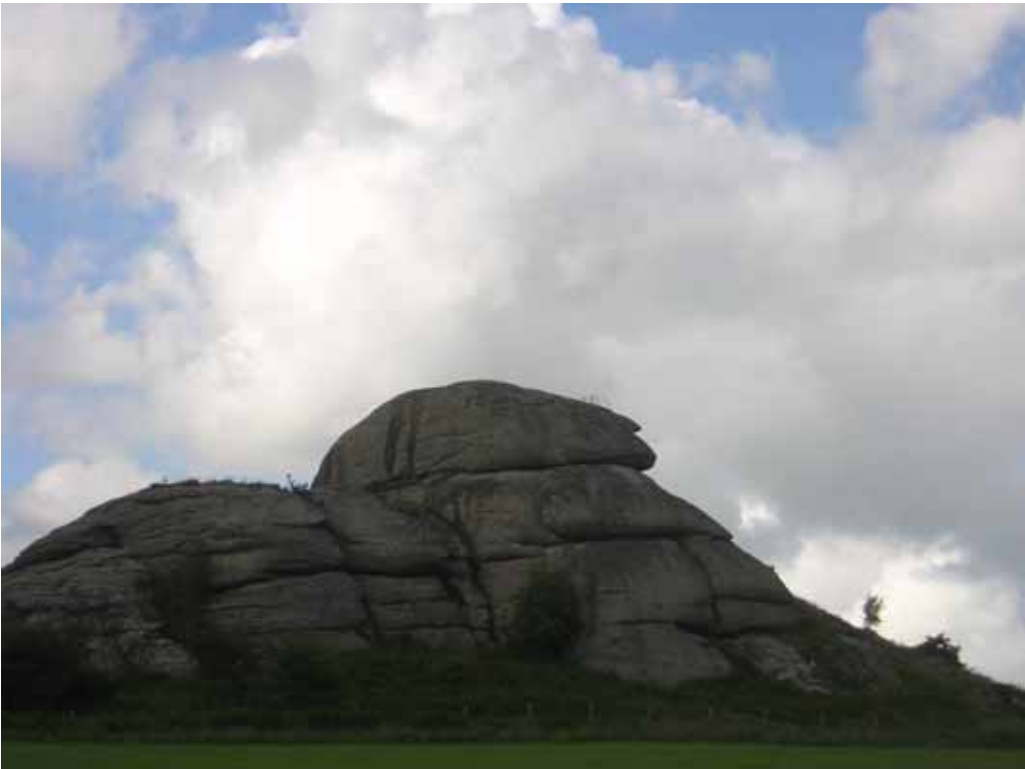
Detailed geological / geomorphological features: Typical ridge-top tor of Permo-Carboniferous Dartmoor granite. Coarse-grained, biotite granite with large feldspar megacrysts. The granite contains xenoliths and dark aggregates of tourmaline. The tor displays characteristic jointing, both shallowly inclined tabular joints and more widely spaced steeply inclined joints.

Sketch by Dr E Freshney

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General views of the Blackingstone Rock granite tor (N face above, from the SSW below). Note conspicuous joint systems (see annotated view above)