

# Trail 1: Mavis Grind - in the heart of the volcano

A magma chamber, filled with seething masses of molten rock is the life source of a volcano. With enough time and pressure the molten rock can fracture the rock around it, and reach the surface as a volcanic eruption.

The area of Mavis Grind is thought to have once been a magma chamber, feeding volcanoes such as the one at Eshaness.

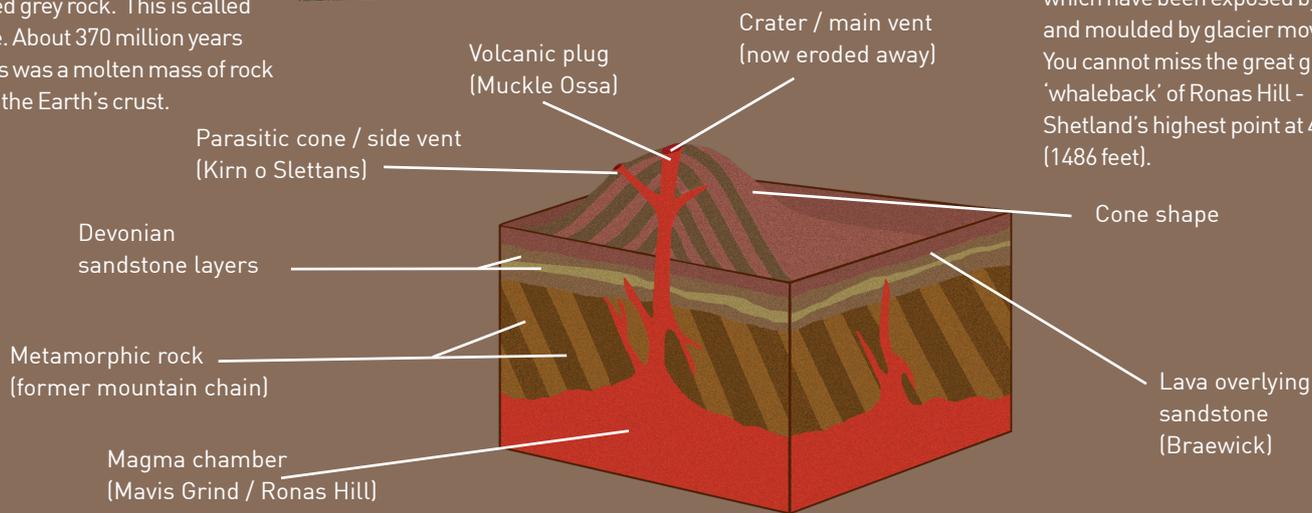
As you travel around here, see how the road and cliffs cut through a speckled grey rock. This is called dolerite. About 370 million years ago, this was a molten mass of rock deep in the Earth's crust.



Look closely - you will see thick red coloured veins running through the grey rock. This is a type of granite magma that was injected into the dolerite under immense pressure. Look at the swirling patterns of red and grey - these show how the molten rocks partly mixed before they solidified.



If you cross Mavis Grind and head north you will see that the landscape becomes steeper and more rugged. This is a legacy of the hard rocks - granite and gabbro - which have been exposed by erosion and moulded by glacier movement. You cannot miss the great granite 'whaleback' of Ronas Hill - Shetland's highest point at 450m (1486 feet).



## Directions

By car / bike: Mavis Grind is on the A970, 35km (23 miles) north of Lerwick.

On foot: 2km (1.25 miles) west of Brae.

Buses to Brae operate from Lerwick Bus Station.

## Interpretation

- Geology wall
- Information Panel

## Access



## Facilities



Available in Brae.



Granite blockfield, Ronas Hill