

Britton Ridge Tors

Location: 62.332974°N 138.945344°W

DETAILS:

Tors protruding above rounded ridges on Britton Ridge are exceptional due to their large size, composition and their common occurrence at low elevations between 1200 and 1525 m (Lipovsky and Bond, 2012). This collection of tors is formed of Eocene granitic rock (Tempelman-Kluit, 1974). At the southwestern end of Britton Ridge, the tors are as tall as 25 m, as long as 75 m and are elongated SW-NE. Their southwestern trend is likely joint controlled and their slightly rounded bulbous form is due to chemical weathering of the crystalline alaskite (leucogranite) bedrock. The surrounding ridge tops are characteristic of regions that have never been extensively glaciated as expressed by their gentle rounded form and the v-shaped geometry of adjacent valleys. However, the bowl-shaped headwaters of some of the creeks draining the upland suggests that they likely supported early Pleistocene or Tertiary alpine glaciers.



Figure 1. Large tors on southwestern Britton Ridge (08JB062). The tor in the background is one of the tallest known tors in the Yukon, with a height of approximately 25 m.



Figure 2. A cluster of fin-shaped “mega tors” approximately 15-25 m tall found below treeline on southwestern Britton Ridge.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

* Lipovsky, P.S. and Bond, J.D., 2013. Surficial Geology of Mount Pattison (NTS 115J/07). Yukon Geological Survey, Energy, Mines and Resources, Government of Yukon, Open File 2013-11, scale 1:50,000.

Tempelman-Kluit, D.J., 1974. Geology, Snag, Yukon. Geological Survey of Canada, Preliminary Map 16-1973, scale 1:250,000.