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# North West Highlands Geopark Geodiversity Audit and Action Plan 2013–2016

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NWHG Ref. 007 — Balnakeil

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NWHG Ref. 020 — Stoer

NWHG Ref. 021 — An Fharaid Mhor — Clachtoll

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General sources of further information in relation to The Geodiversity Audit

List of academic references to be used in relation to The Geodiversity Audit

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## **Foreword**

The North West Highlands Geopark (NWHG) became Scotland's first European Geopark and Global Geopark in 2004. A 'European Geopark' is a much sought after status, endorsed by UNESCO (United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) and is a clearly defined area with a geological heritage of particular importance in terms of its

scientific quality, rarity, aesthetic appeal and educational value.

The first Development and Action Plan for the NWHG was prepared for 2009–2012, with a key objective to promote conservation of the geological heritage. Through the creation of a Geodiversity Audit, an Action Plan could identify priorities and actions for geodiversity within the Geopark area. In 2010, Donald Fisher was employed as GeoRanger with funding from the Highland LEADER programme and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), with the task of preparing this Audit and writing the first Action Plan.

This Audit provides the first comprehensive listing of key sites within the Geopark. It should not be considered an exhaustive listing but the start of documentation of the geodiversity resource. The Audit has been written in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage and the British Geological Survey (BGS). Further comments and guidance have been provided by members of the NWHG Steering Group, which has a range of representation from the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. The Action Plan was then created and consultation carried out in a similar manner.

It should be noted though that this version of the Audit and Action Plan has not been circulated for wider stakeholder comment. It therefore has to be regarded as a consultative draft and expresses the views of the author and not necessarily those of the Geopark or any of its partners.

This document identifies actions that indicate how partners could work together to make the most of the area's geodiversity for education, interpretation and ecotourism. It also identifies where geodiversity requires greater conservation action, particularly where this is under threat.

Thanks are due to all those that have contributed to the production of this document, particularly Maarten Krabbendam and Hugh Baron at BGS, and to Donald Fisher for researching the sites and writing the audit and plan.

**Sue Agnew, Operations Officer, Scottish Natural Heritage.**

(Figure 2) Rocks from the dawn of time...Simplified Map of North West Highlands Geopark © BGS

# GEODIVERSITY AUDIT AND ACTION PLAN

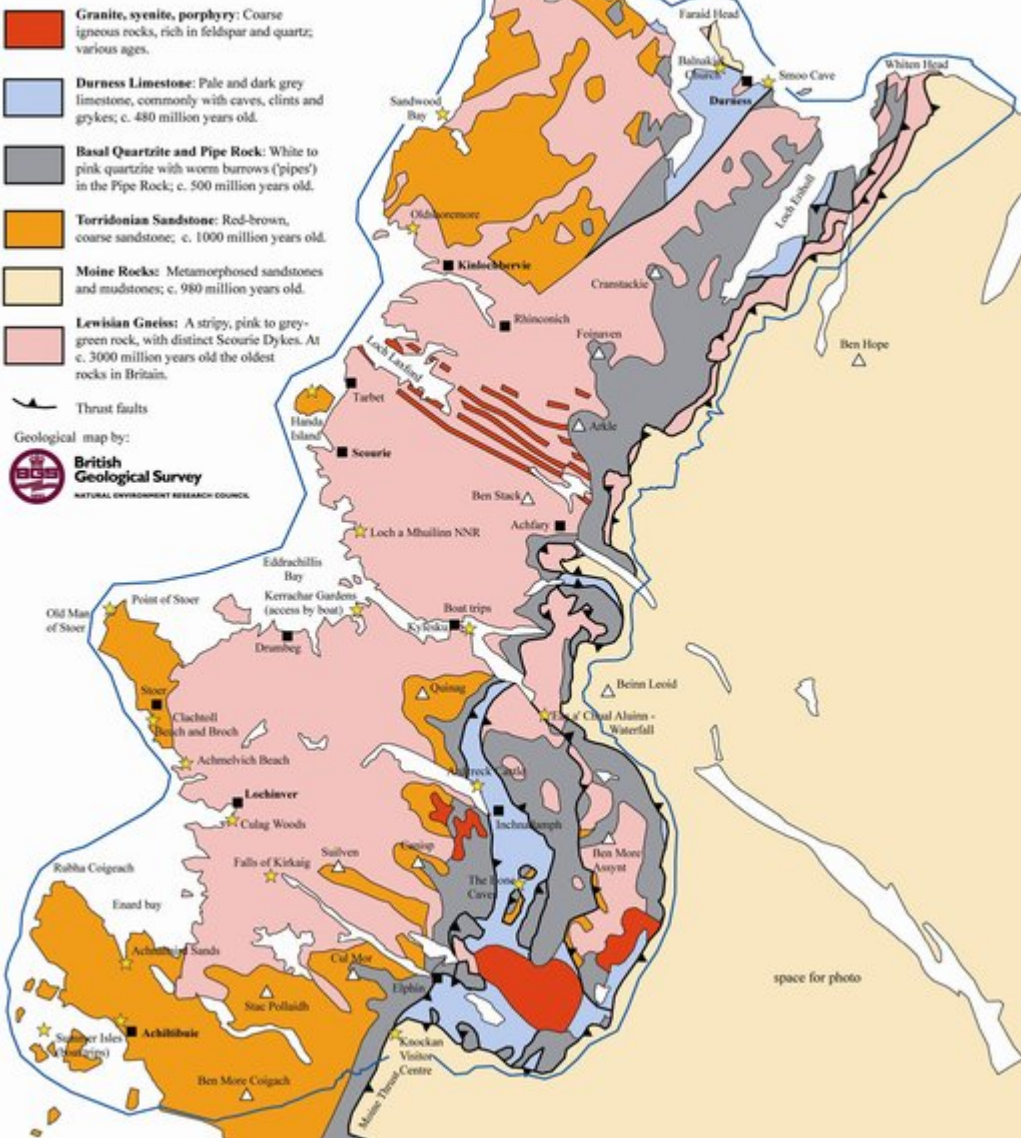
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# Rocks from the dawn of time...



(Figure 2) Rocks from the dawn of time.