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## **NWHG Ref. 037 — Glen Oykel North**

### **Location, grid reference**

This very small site is located in the floor of the Oykel valley, about 4.5 km north of Loch Ailsh and within the area of Benmore Forest, Grid Ref. [NC 312 161].

### **GCR site reference, block, volume and notified feature of SSSI?**

GCR Ref. 1231, Caledonian Igneous Block, Vol. 17. Notified feature of Ben More Assynt SSSI.

### **Description and geological significance**

The site occupies a very small area about 22 m x 15 m straddling the course of the River Oykel. It is an exceptional locality at which an enigmatic diatreme of brecciated dolomitic limestone in a fine carbonate matrix is associated with a vogesite sill. It may represent the only example of transport by gas in the Caledonian alkaline suite.

### **Accessibility**

There is no vehicular access and a walk of about 5 km from Benmore Lodge further up the valley of the River Oykel is required, over remote and undulating terrain. There is therefore no all abilities access.

### **Conservation**

Low conservation requirement due to the location of the site.

### **Visibility and “clarity”**

The key features are only visible once the site has been accessed.

### **Interpretation and interpretation potential**

The site is located in a very remote area and is unlikely to be visited by the general public other than geological specialists/ students. Interpretation potential is therefore limited. However, in view of the historical and current importance of the site from a geological perspective, it should be listed in a future Geopark guide.

### **Key references**

Geological Conservation Review Series, Volume 17: Caledonian Igneous Rocks of Great Britain, site description page 389.