
NWHG Ref. 038 — Glen Oykel South

Location, grid reference and photograph

This small site is located in the bed of the River Oykel c .750 m north of its confluence with the Allt Sail an Ruathair, Grid Ref. [NC 327 136].

(Figure 36) 'Grorudite' (peralkaline rhyolite) dyke cutting Loch Ailsh syenites, Glen Oykel. BGS Photo P506430 — K M Goodenough.

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

GCR Ref. 1222, Caledonian Igneous Block, Vol. 17. Notified feature of Ben More Assynt SSSI.

Description and geological significance

The site comprises rock-slabs exposed in the bed of the River Oykel and is representative of the “grorudite” (peralkaline rhyolite) suite of dykes which are emplaced only in the Ben More Nappe. At this site, a 4 m thick dyke of grorudite (one of a swarm exposed elsewhere) cuts through the syenite of the Loch Ailsh intrusion, demonstrating that the Loch Ailsh was emplaced prior to movements on the Ben More Thrust and the associated emplacement of the grorudite intrusions.

Accessibility

The site is located in a remote part of Glen Oykel but can be accessed via a rough, unsurfaced track to the north of Benmore Lodge. Moderately difficult access, therefore, but 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 within a very remote area and is unlikely to be visited by members of the general public other than geological specialists/students. Interpretation potential is therefore very limited.

Key references

PARSONS, I. 1999. Late Ordovician to mid-Silurian alkaline intrusions of the North-west Highlands of Scotland. In Stephenson, D., Bevins, R. E., Milward, D., Highton, A. J., Parsons, I., Stone, P. & Wadsworth, W. J. (eds) Caledonian Igneous rocks of Great Britain. Geological Conservation Review Series, 17, Chapman & Hall, 345–393 (site description page 381).



(Figure 36) 'Grorudite' (peralkaline rhyolite) dyke cutting Loch Ailsh syenites, Glen Oykel. BGS Photo P506430 — K M Goodenough.