

---

## Glossary of geological terms

**Basalt** Dark-coloured, fine-grained basic igneous rock

**Basic igneous rock** Containing a low proportion of silica and a high proportion of calcium, iron and magnesium

**Brackish** Saline water with a salt content less than that of seawater

**Breccia** Sedimentary rock containing large, angular blocks

**Calcite** Common crystalline form of calcium carbonate

**Conglomerate** Sedimentary rock containing large, rounded cobbles or boulders

**Cretaceous Period** Sub-division of geological time; see Eigg timescale (*inside back cover*) for details

**Dyke** Tabular body of igneous rock intruded into surrounding rocks; generally vertical or nearly so

**Erosion** Wearing away of the land surface as a result of weathering and transport of material by rivers, glaciers, etc.

**Feldspar** A group of pale-coloured aluminium silicate minerals forming tabular crystals; the most common minerals in igneous rocks

**Igneous rock** Rock formed from the solidification of molten magma

**Ignimbrite** Rock formed from material deposited by a pyroclastic flow

**Intrusive igneous rock** Rock formed by crystallisation of magma injected into pre-existing rocks

**Jurassic Period** Sub-division of geological time; see Eigg timescale (*inside back cover* for details (Figure 43)).

**Limestone** Sedimentary rock formed mainly of calcium carbonate

**Metamorphic rock** Rock that has been changed from its original state by the action of heat and pressure

**Mudstone** A sedimentary rock formed from the consolidation of clay or silt

**Peperite** Sedimentary rock that contains fragments of igneous material that is formed when magma comes into contact with wet sediments

**Pitchstone** A glassy, i.e. largely non-crystalline, silicic igneous rock

**Palaeogene Period** Sub-division of geological time; see Eigg timescale (*inside back cover*) for details

**Pumice** Silicic volcanic rock containing numerous gas bubbles

**Pyroclastic flow** A fast-moving current of hot gas and rock resulting from an explosive volcanic eruption, usually of silicic magma

**Quartz** The common crystalline form of silica (silicon dioxide)

**Sandstone** A sedimentary rock consisting of sand-sized grains, generally predominantly quartz

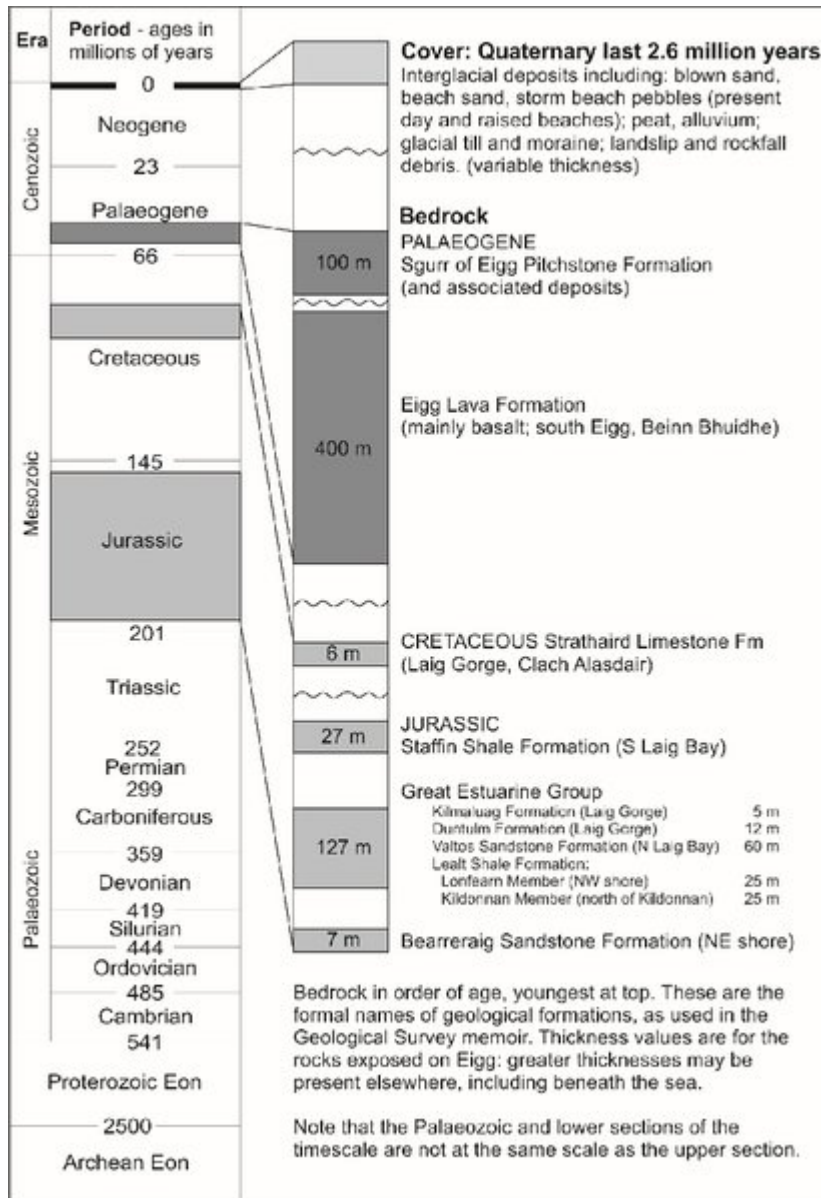
**Sedimentary rock** Rock formed from the consolidation of sediments, such as sandstone, mudstone and limestone

**Silicic igneous rock** Containing a high proportion of silica, therefore formed mainly of high-silica minerals such as quartz and feldspar e.g. granite

**Sill** A tabular body of igneous rock, formed from magma intruded into sedimentary rocks parallel to their bedding; often near horizontal

**Till** Glacial debris deposited beneath an ice sheet (formerly known as boulder clay)

**Weathering** The fragmentation and alteration of rocks by physical means such as frost action or by chemical change due to attack by water and the atmosphere, without transport (cf. erosion)



*Geological timescale on Eigg.*