
NWHG Ref. 054 — Achduart

Location, grid reference

The Achduart site lies on the coast about 5 km south-east of Achiltibuie, Grid Ref. [NC 046 044]–[NC 055 034].

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

GCR Ref. 1608, Torridonian Block, Vol. 34. Confirmed GCR site, not SSSI notified.

Description and geological significance

The Achduart site contains the type sections for the lower units of the Applecross Formation of the Torridon Group. It is considered the best site for examination of two extensive sandstone units, interpreted as sections through large alluvial fans or as deposits from a large-scale braided river system. The site is of international importance in relation to the study of the environment of deposition of the Torridon Group rocks.

Accessibility

This rather remote area can be accessed by car but requires a short walk over rough ground to reach the site location at the coast. Not recommended for all abilities.

Conservation

Low conservation requirement due to the scale and location of the site.

Visibility and “clarity”

Only visible once the coastline is reached. Key geological features require specialist knowledge.

Interpretation and interpretation potential

The site is used by geologists studying aspects of the environment of deposition of the Torridon Group and requires specialist interpretation. There is no interpretation panel, and none is recommended. The site is important as an educational resource, and could be included in a future Geopark guide.

Key references

STEWART, A.D. 2002. The later Proterozoic Torridonian rocks of Scotland: their sedimentology, geochemistry and origin. Geological Society Memoir, The Geological Society.

STEWART, A.D. 2009. Achduart. In Mendum, J. R., Barber, A. J., Butler, R. W. H., Flinn, D., Goodenough, K. M., Krabbendam, M., Park, R. G. & Stewart, A. D. (eds) Lewisian, Torridonian and Moine rocks of Scotland. Geological Conservation Review Series, 34, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough, 217–219.