
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.