

ALLT NAN UAMH

OS Grid Reference: NC256179

Description

A thick sill of a fresh vogesite with a high proportion of large prismatic hornblendes as much as 10 mm long, set in pink feldspar, occurs close to the A837 and can be reached by a maintained path in the beautiful valley of the Allt nan Uamh, best known for its bone-caves. The locality, slightly above the fish-farm, is shown on Figure 7.16. It has hardened the Salterella Grit which forms an attractive waterfall (Figure 7.17). The sill dips gently to the east and is about 20 m thick. According to Sabine (1953) this is one of the two thickest vogesite sills in Assynt. The other is on the A837 just north of Inchnadamph.

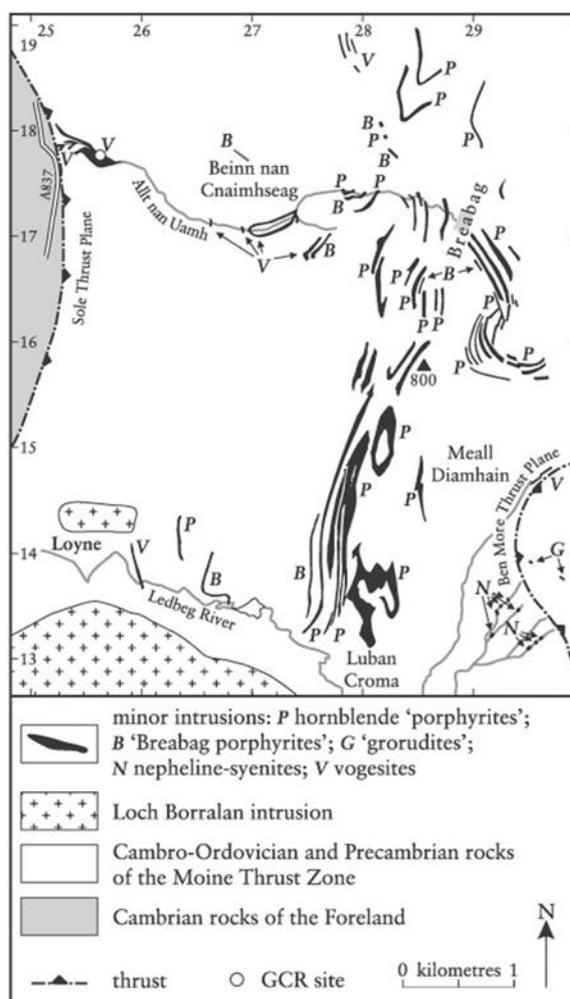


Figure 7.16: Distribution of sills and dykes between the Luban Croma and Allt nan Uamh sites, north of the Loch Borralan intrusion. (After Sabine, 1953, fig. 8.)

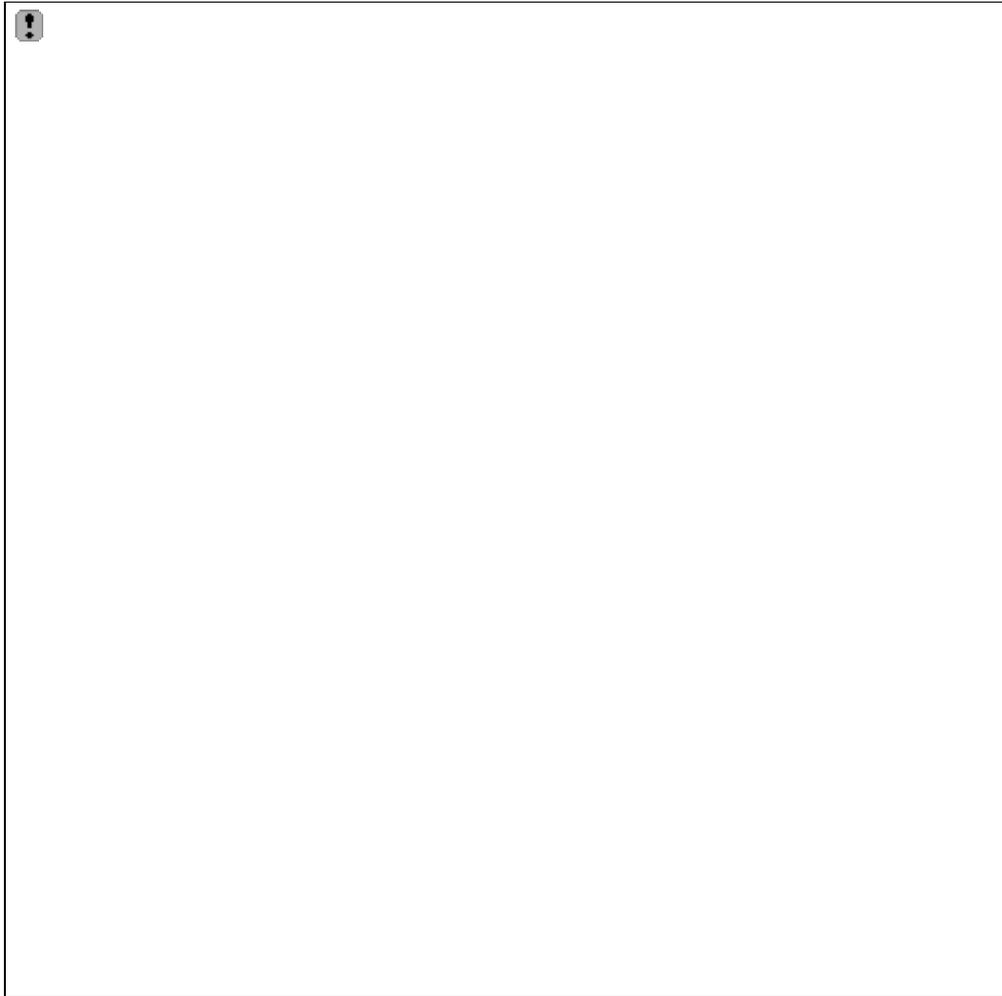


Figure 7.17: Waterfall in Salterella Grit hardened by vogesite sill below, Allt nan Uamh (see Figure 7.16). (Photo: I. Parsons.)

Conclusions

The sill exposed in the Allt nan Uamh GCR site is a readily accessible, coarse-grained example of the most widespread hypabyssal intrusive rock type in Assynt, excellent for teaching purposes as an example of the lamprophyre family.

Reference list

Sabine, P. A. (1953) The petrography and geological significance of the post-Cambrian minor intrusions of Assynt and the adjoining districts of north-west Scotland. *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London*, **109**, 137–71.