



THE HIGHLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity No. SC004427

MAY 2016

Dear Members,

Our summer programme is continuing apace, following an excellent weekend on Skye with Iain Allison. More details regarding the June excursion are given below; unfortunately due to ill-health, John Mendum is now unable to lead the trip but he has very generously made his notes available to us. Consequently the weekend will be self-led, although we will continue to look for additional support. This format worked very well on Mull so am sure that we will see and learn lots!

Following on from Peter Harrison's talk about the NW Highland's Geopark, information about their field trip programme is available at: <http://www.nwhgeopark.com/geotours-2016/> and, for those members who receive their newsletter by email, the .pdf is also attached.

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2016

Saturday 11 June – Sunday 12 June – Banffshire coast

Saturday: meet at Golf Links car park, Cullen at 10 am (NJ 5052 6735)

We will walk to Portknockie from Cullen to view sedimentary structures in the Cullen Quartzite, the lowermost formation of the Grampian Group. From here, we will make our way east, moving through progressively younger rocks of the Dalradian Supergroup. Localities will include Findlater Castle, Sandend and Boyne Bay but exact outcrops and timings will be dependent on weather and rate of progress.

Sunday: meet at 9.30am Cullen Square car park (NJ 5124 6712)

Terrain includes good tracks and sandy beaches but also exposed grassy slopes and vertically-bedded rocks which are slippery when wet; please ensure that appropriate footwear is worn.

On Saturday evening we will eat at the Crannoch Hotel, 12, Blantyre Road, Cullen, AB56 4RQ (<http://www.cullen-hotel.co.uk/index.html>); please let Alison know if you would like to join the group for dinner.

Sunday 7 August – Duntelchaig, south of Inverness, Ann Reynolds (HGS)

Meet at the Matalan car park at Inshes, Inverness (NH 6875 4420) at 10.00. (Take the Hospital turning off the A9 to the retail park and follow it round). Note: there is limited parking available at the excursion start so we will leave as many cars as possible at Inshes.

The 'Inverness Lake District' lies SW of Inverness between the Great Glen and Strathnairn. We will look at the area around the southern end of Loch Duntelchaig (covered by new BGS Sheet 73E – Foyers). The bed rocks are psammites and pelites of the Grampian Group which contain garnet amphibolites, pegmatites and felsite dykes; some of these are migmatized. Overlying Devonian breccia–conglomerate sandstones outcrop in the area and we will be able to see (or infer) the position of the unconformity at 3 or more points. There are also several faults and a very fine fault breccia. These rocks were exposed during the last period of glaciation and we will have a look at the geomorphology of the area.

Much of the day will be spent on the road side or walking up a well-made forestry track we will have to cross rough ground so good supportive boots are recommended. A set of binoculars may be helpful to try and establish the plane of the unconformity.

