# Carboniferous and Permian Igneous Rocks of Great Britain North of the Variscan Front

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In this reference list the arrangement is alphabetical by author surname for works by sole authors and dual authors. Where there are references that include the first-named author with others, the sole-author works are listed chronologically first, followed by the dual author references (alphabetically) followed by the references with three or more authors listed *chronologically*. Chronological order is used within each group of identical authors.

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320

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338

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# Glossary

This glossary aims to provide simple explanations of the geological terms used in Chapter 1 and in the 'Introduction' and 'Conclusions' sections of site descriptions. It also includes many of the more important terms encountered in other sections of the volume. *The explanations are not intended to be comprehensive definitions, but concentrate instead on the way in which the terms are used in this volume.* Bold typeface indicates a further glossary entry.

Chronostratigraphical names not listed in the glossary are given in Figure 1.2 (Chapter 1). For the names of minerals and non-igneous rock-types, the reader is referred to standard textbooks. The names of most common crystalline igneous rocks are better explained by means of classification diagrams (Figures G.1–G.6, all simplified after Le Maitre (2002) to include only rock names encountered in this volume). Names of igneous or igneous-related rocks that do not fit easily into these classification diagrams are included in the glossary, as are the names of most fragmental volcanic rocks, which require extended explanations commonly involving their mode of formation.

The classification and nomenclature of crystalline igneous rocks used in this volume follow the recommendations of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Subcommission on the Systematics of Igneous Rocks (Le Maitre, 2002). Slight modifications follow the classification scheme of the British Geological Survey (BGS) (Gillespie and Styles, 1999), in which an attempt is made to distinguish 'root names' (i.e. largely those which figure on the main classification diagrams) from variants, mostly indicated by mineral qualifiers as prefixes to the root names. This is achieved through a strict use of hyphens:

- Compound root names, usually involving an *essential* mineral, are hyphenated (e.g. quartz-syenite, olivine-gabbro).
- Mineral qualifiers are hyphenated together (e.g. biotite-hypersthene andesite).
- Mineral qualifiers are *not* hyphenated to the root name, whether compound or not (e.g. biotitehornblende trachyte, biotite quartz-trachyte, fayalite-augite nepheline-syenite).

Fragmental volcanic rocks are also classified and named according to the IUGS scheme, with minor modifications from the BGS scheme. Two points should be noted in particular: the term 'volcaniclastic' is applied to all fragmental rocks that occur in a volcanic setting, including *both* rocks that have been fragmented by volcanic processes (i.e. pyroclastic rocks) *and* sedimentary rocks that comprise reworked fragments of volcanic rocks. The terms 'volcanogenic' and 'epiclastic', which are commonly used elsewhere in an inconsistent and confusing manner, are not used in the BGS scheme or in this volume.

The Carboniferous and Permian basic lavas of Scotland are almost invariably porphyritic to varying degrees. This feature was utilized by MacGregor (1928) to devise a nomenclature based in part on phenocryst size (microporphyritic or macroporphyritic) and in part on the phenocryst assemblages (ol + cpx, ol + cpx + pl, pl  $\pm$  ol). They were assigned type locality names (e.g.

#### Glossary

'Craiglockhart' type for macroporphyritic ol + cpx-phyric basalts, and 'Hillhouse' type for microporphyritic ol + cpx-phyric basalts). This scheme was widely used on Scottish maps for many years as a convenient 'shorthand' way of representing the wide range of petrographical types that are distinctive in the field and hence form mappable units. It also enabled lavas such as the feldsparphyric 'Markle' and 'Jedburgh' types, which commonly range in composition from basalt to hawaiite, to be assigned a name without the need for an analysis. The scheme has now fallen into disuse in favour of less parochial descriptions, but the 'MacGregor' names are given in some places in this volume in addition, especially where they enable comparison with existing literature (Table G.1). Other local names for distinctive rock-types and obsolete names are explained where they occur in the main text.

- Aa: lava with a rough, clinkery surface, broken into angular blocks.
- Acid: descriptive of light-coloured igneous rocks relatively enriched in silica.
- Aeolian: descriptive of sediments or landforms formed under the action of the wind.
- Age: a geological time unit (cf. chronostratigraphy), usually taken to be the smallest standard division of geological time, of shorter duration than an epoch.
- Agglomerate: a pyroclastic rock with predominantly rounded clasts greater than 64 mm in diameter.
- Alkali basalt: a type of basalt, parental to a suite of silica-saturated to -undersaturated igneous rocks characterized by high alkalis relative to silica, formed dominantly in extensional within-plate settings (see Figures G.5 and G.6).
- Alkaline: descriptive of igneous rocks that contain more sodium and/or potassium than is required to form feldspar and hence contain, or have the potential to contain (i.e. in the **norm**), other alkali-bearing minerals such as feldspathoids, alkali pyroxenes and alkali amphiboles.
- Amygdale: a gas bubble cavity in an igneous rock that has been infilled later with minerals.
- Andesite: a fine-grained, mafic, intermediate igneous rock (see Figures G.1 and G.5).
- Aphyric (or non-porphyritic): a textural term, applied to igneous rocks that lack relatively large, conspicuous crystals (phenocrysts) compared with the grain size of the groundmass.
- **Aplitic**: descriptive of relatively finer-grained areas, typically **veins**, within an igneous rock (contrast with **pegmatitic**).
- Assimilation: the addition of solid material such as country rock to a magma, changing its composition.

- Asthenosphere: a weak layer within the Earth's mantle and immediately below the lithosphere.
- **Back-arc basin**: the region adjacent to a **subduction**-related volcanic arc, on the opposite side of the arc from the trench and subducting plate. Stresses in the back-arc region are typically extensional.
- **Basalt**: a fine-grained, **mafic**, **basic** igneous rock (see Figures G.1, G.5 and G.6).
- **Basanite**: a fine-grained, **mafic**, **basic** or **ultrabasic** igneous rock with the mineralogy of a **basalt** but with the addition of a feldspathoid mineral (see Figures G.1, G.5 and G.6).
- **Basement:** the oldest rocks recognized in a given area; an assemblage of metamorphic and/or igneous rocks that underlies all the sedimentary formations.
- **Basic**: descriptive of an igneous rock relatively rich in the 'bases' of early chemistry (MgO, FeO, CaO, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>); silica (SiO<sub>2</sub>) is relatively low (nominally 45–52%).
- Basin (i.e. sedimentary basin): a region of prolonged subsidence of the Earth's surface, typically formed either by stretching of the lithosphere under extensional forces, or by flexural subsidence.
- Bed: in lithostratigraphical terms, a subdivision of either a member or a formation; the smallest unit within the scheme of formal lithostratigraphical classification. Also used informally to indicate a stratum within a sedimentary rock succession.
- Bedding: a feature of sedimentary rocks, in which planar or near-planar surfaces known as 'bedding planes' indicate successive depositional surfaces formed as the sediments were laid down.
- Benmoreite: a fine-grained, mafic, intermediate igneous rock, belonging to the alkali basalt suite (see Figures G.1, G.5 and G.6).

- Bentonite: a light coloured rock, mainly composed of clay minerals and colloidal silica, produced by devitrification and chemical alteration of glassy fine ash (see also tonstein).
- **Biostratigraphy**: the stratigraphical subdivision and correlation of sedimentary rocks based on their fossil content.
- **Blastomylonite**: an extremely sheared (mylonitic) rock in which some recrystallization and growth of new minerals has taken place during deformation.
- **Block:** a **pyroclastic** rock fragment, more than 64 mm in diameter, with an angular to subangular shape, which indicates that it was formed by the breaking of solid rock.
- **Bole**: a fine, earthy, compact red-brown clay formed by tropical weathering and leaching of a **lava** surface (see **laterite**).
- **Bomb**: a **pyroclastic** rock fragment, more than 64 mm in diameter, which has a 'streamlined' shape or surface indicating that it was erupted as a mass of molten or partially molten **lava** that then cooled during flight.
- **Breccia**: a rock composed of angular broken fragments greater than 2 mm in diameter; can be **pyroclastic**, sedimentary or fault-related.
- **Brockram**: a term used in Cumbria for a sedimentary **breccia** of Permian age; commonly red or purple.
- **Caldera**: a circular, basin-shaped depression, usually many times greater than the size of any individual volcanic **vent**, caused by collapse of the roof of an underlying **magma chamber** following an eruption; also refers to the underlying volcanic structure.
- **Caledonian Orogeny:** a major period of orogenesis that took place during the **Palaeozoic Era**, associated with the closure of the ancient Iapetus Ocean that was situated between Scotland and the rest of present-day Britain.
- Camptonite: an alkaline variety of lamprophyre, in which the phenocrysts are various combinations of olivine and titanium-bearing amphibole, augite and biotite. The groundmass consists of the same minerals (except olivine) together with plagioclase, and possibly subordinate alkali feldspar and/or feldspathoids.

Carbonatite: a magmatic carbonate rock.

Carboniferous Period: a geological time division (period; cf chronostratigraphy), ranging from 354 to 290 million years ago. It precedes the **Permian Period**.

- Chilled margin: that part of an igneous rock adjacent to a contact with an older rock, where the magma has been cooled rapidly (chilled), forming a zone of fine-grained rock.
- Chronostratigraphy: the correlation and subdivision of rock units on the basis of relative age – a hierarchy of sequential units to which the layers of sedimentary rocks are allocated, through the study and interpretation of their stratigraphy. The hierarchy of principal chronostratigraphical units is erathem, system, series and stage, which are related, respectively, to the geological time units of era, period, epoch and age.
- **Cinder cone**: a small volcanic cone built almost entirely of loose volcanic fragments, ash and **pumice** (cinder/scoria).
- Clast: a fragment in a pyroclastic or sedimentary rock.
- **Cleavage:** a plane of incipient parting in a rock, produced by the alignment of platy crystals, such as mica, in response to confining pressure during deformation.
- **Columnar jointing**: the division of an igneous rock body into columns by cracks (joints) produced through thermal contraction on cooling. The columns form perpendicular to the cooling surface.
- **Comagmatic:** a term applied to igneous rocks that are considered to have been derived from the same parent **magma**, or at least from the same source region, at the same time and under identical physical and chemical conditions.
- **Complex:** used herein to refer to a large-scale, spatially related assemblage of igneous rock units possibly, but not necessarily, with complicated igneous and/or **tectonic** relationships and of various ages and diverse origins.
- **Composite:** used to refer to an igneous intrusion or **lava** flow that has formed from two or more different pulses of **magma**, each pulse differing slightly from the others in mineralogy, texture and/or chemistry.
- **Concretion**: a hard, compact mass, usually rounded, in a sedimentary rock, formed by precipitation of a cementing mineral around a nucleus during or after deposition.
- **Conglomerate**: a sedimentary rock, a significant proportion of which is composed of rounded pebbles and boulders, greater than 2 mm in diameter.

**Country rock**: rock that has been intruded by an igneous rock.

**Crust**: the outermost layer or shell of the Earth, above the **Moho** and **mantle**. It consists of two parts: a **basic** layer, which forms the oceanic crust and underlies the continents at depth; and a layer of dominantly **acid** rocks, which forms the thickest, upper part of the continental crust.

- **Cryptocrystalline**: very finely crystalline, such that individual crystals can only be distinguished under very powerful magnification (e.g. electron microscope).
- Crystal fractionation: see fractional crystallization.
- **Cumulate:** an igneous rock formed by crystals that precipitated early from a **magma** and accumulated due to gravitational settling, current activity or other magmatic processes, without modification by later crystallization.

Depleted mantle: mantle that has been depleted in incompatible elements, through partial melting.

- **Deuteric**: descriptive of the reactions between primary minerals and the water-rich fluids that separate from the same body of **magma** at a late stage in its cooling history.
- **Devitrification**: the conversion of glass, e.g. in the interstices of a volcanic or **hypabyssal** rock, to **cryptocrystalline** or crystalline material.
- **Diagenesis:** the process of mineral growth and/or recrystallization leading to lithification of unconsolidated sediment to form rock.
- **Diapir**: a dome-shaped body of **magma** or mobile rock that has risen through **country rocks** due to its lower density and/or greater plasticity.

**Diatreme**: a **breccia**-filled volcanic pipe formed by a gaseous explosion.

- Dinantian sub-System: a chronostratigraphical division; equivalent to the Lower Carboniferous in Europe, dated at 354–327 Ma. It precedes the Namurian Series, and comprises the Tournaisian and Visean series.
- **Diorite**: a coarse-grained, **mafic**, **intermediate** igneous rock (see Figure G.2).

Distal: far from the source.

- **Dolerite**: used herein as a synonym of microgabbro (see Figure G.2).
- **Dyke**: a tabular body of igneous rock, originally intruded as a vertical or steeply inclined sheet.

Dyke-swarm: a collection of dykes.

- Effusive: descriptive of an eruption as lava rather than as pyroclasts.
- **Enclave:** an inclusion (**xenolith**) within an igneous rock, usually of some other igneous rock that may or may not be related.
- *En échelon*: descriptive of a series of linear features, such as **dykes** or **faults**, which follow roughly the same trend but are 'stepped'.
- Enriched mantle: mantle that has been enriched in incompatible elements, through the introduction of partial melts and metasomatism.
- **Epoch**: a geological time unit (cf. chronostratigraphy), of shorter duration than a period and itself divisible into ages.
- **Equigranular**: a texture in which all the crystals are approximately the same size.
- Era: a major geological time unit (cf. chronostratigraphy), which is divisible into periods.
- **Euhedral**: descriptive of a mineral grain, such as a **phenocryst**, with well-formed crystal faces.
- **Exsolution**: the process whereby an initially homogeneous mineral separates into two distinct and commonly intergrown crystalline phases on cooling without a change in the bulk composition.
- **Extrusive**: descriptive of igneous rocks that have been extruded onto the Earth's surface, rather than being intruded beneath the surface (**intrusive**).
- Facies: the characteristic features of a rock unit, including rock-type, mineralogy, texture and structure, which together reflect a particular sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic environment and/or process.
- Fault: a fracture in the Earth's crust across which the rocks have been displaced relative to each other.
- Felsic: descriptive of light-coloured minerals (*feldspar/feldspathoid and silica*); or of an igneous rock containing substantial proportions of these minerals; the opposite of **mafic**.
- Felsite: a field term for glassy and fine-grained felsic igneous rocks.
- **Fissure eruption**: a volcanic eruption where **lava** wells up through fissures in the Earth's **crust**. Often involves very fluid **basic lavas**, and can spread over very large areas.
- Flexural subsidence: the downward bending of the lithosphere due to loading, for example by the weight of sediment (as in a foreland basin) or by tectonic overthrusting.

- **Flood basalt**: a widespread sheet or layer of basaltic **lava** erupted from a fissure-type eruption.
- Fluidization: mobilization resulting from passage of a fluid (usually a gas) through a granular solid.
- Fluvial: referring to a river environment.
- **Foidite**: a general term for fine-grained igneous rocks in which the **felsic** minerals include more than 60% feldspathoids.
- Foidolite: a general term for coarse-grained igneous rocks in which the felsic minerals include more than 60% feldspathoids.
- Foliation: the planar arrangement of components within a rock.
- Foreland basin: a sedimentary basin developed by depression of a convergent continental margin due to the weight of sediment accumulating in front of the orogenic belt.
- Formation: a lithostratigraphical unit, hierarchically higher than 'member' and lower than 'group'. A named 'Formation' represents an assemblage of strata that have a common characteristic useful for mapping.
- **Fractional crystallization**: the process in which the early formed crystals in a **magma** are removed or otherwise prevented from equilibrating with the residual liquid, which consequently becomes progressively more evolved in composition (i.e. more fractionated).
- **Gabbro**: a coarse-grained, **mafic**, **basic** igneous rock (see Figures G.2 and G.3).
- **GCR:** Geological Conservation Review, in which nationally important geological and geomorphological sites were assessed and selected with a view to their long-term conservation as SSSIs.
- Glomeroporphyritic: a porphyritic rock containing clusters of phenocrysts.
- **Gneiss**: a coarse-grained, inhomogenous rock, common in relatively high-grade metamorphic terranes, characterized by banding or layering.
- **Gneissose**: a metamorphic texture, which has a 'stripy' appearance due to the segregation of the component minerals into compositionally distinct lenses.
- **Graben**: an elongate, down-faulted crustal block, commonly with a marked topographic expression.
- Granite: a coarse-grained, felsic, acid igneous rock (see Figure G.2).
- **Granoblastic**: a metamorphic texture in which recrystallization has formed essentially equidimensional crystals.

- Granulite facies: the temperature and pressure conditions typical of high-temperature and moderate- to high-pressure regional metamorphism.
- **Group:** a **lithostratigraphical** unit consisting of one or more **formations**, important for local and regional **lithostratigraphical** correlation.
- Hanging wall: the upper side of an inclined fault or other dislocation.
- Harzburgite: a peridotite consisting mainly of olivine and orthopyroxene (see Figure G.4).
- Hawaiian eruption: a type of eruption characterized by the flow of basaltic lava from an eruptive centre or centres without appreciable explosive activity.
- Hawaiite: a fine-grained, mafic, intermediate igneous rock, belonging to the alkali basalt suite (see Figures G.1, G.5 and G.6).
- **Hornfels**: a well-baked, hard, splintery rock resulting from thermal (contact) metamorphism.
- Hyaloclastite: a pyroclastic rock composed of angular fragments of glass, formed when magma is rapidly quenched and shattered on entering water.
- **Hybridization**: the intermixing of two or more **magmas**, which crystallize as a single rock, commonly having a heterogeneous texture and complex mineralogy.
- Hydroclastic: descriptive of fragmentation of magma or hot rock by its interaction with water (see also hydrovolcanic and phreato-magmatic).
- **Hydromagmatic**: descriptive of processes driven by the interaction of **magma** with water.
- Hydrothermal alteration: changes in mineralogy and chemistry in rocks resulting from the reaction of hot water with pre-existing minerals (cf. metasomatism).
- **Hydrovolcanic**: descriptive of volcanic processes driven by the interaction of **magma** with water.
- **Hypabyssal**: descriptive of an igneous intrusion, or its rock, emplaced at a depth intermediate between **plutonic** and volcanic.
- **Incompatible elements**: trace elements that are not readily accepted into the crystal structure of common rock-forming minerals during the crystallization of **magma** and hence are concentrated preferentially into the remaining liquid. They are also concentrated in the first liquids produced during **partial melting**.

- **Intermediate**: descriptive of igneous rock that is transitional in chemical composition between **acid** and **basic** (see Figure G.5).
- **Intrusive**: descriptive of igneous rocks that have been intruded into older rocks beneath the Earth's surface, rather than being extruded onto the surface (extrusive).
- Joint: a fracture in a rock across which there has been no noticeable displacement. Common types of joints in igneous rocks are cooling joints, formed through thermal contraction as the magma cools.
- Juvenile: descriptive of volcanic fragments that have been derived directly from magma.
- Laccolith: an igneous intrusion, roughly circular in plan and concordant with the structure of the country rock; it generally has a flat floor, a shallow domed roof and a dyke-like feeder beneath its thickest point.
- Lamprophyre: the name used for a distinctive group of largely hypabyssal rocks characterized by abundant phenocrysts of mafic minerals, with felsic minerals confined to the groundmass.
- Lapilli-tuff: a pyroclastic rock in which 25–75% of the clasts are between 2 and 64 mm in diameter (lapilli), and are set in a finer-grained matrix.
- Lava: molten rock at the Earth's surface (contrast with magma).
- Lava tube: a hollow space beneath the solidified surface of a lava, formed by the draining out of molten lava after the crust had formed.
- Laterite: a red subsoil, rich in hydrous oxides of iron and/or aluminium and commonly with kaolinite and silica that develops as a residual product of weathering in tropical and subtropical climates.
- Leucocratic: descriptive of light-coloured igneous rocks containing few mafic minerals.
- **Lherzolite**: a **peridotite** consisting mainly of olivine, clinopyroxene and orthopyroxene (see Figure G.4).
- Lithosphere: the outer layer of the solid Earth, including the **crust** and upper part of the **mantle**, which forms tectonic plates above the **asthenosphere**.
- Lithostratigraphy: the stratigraphical subdivision and correlation of rocks based on their lithology. Units are named according to their

perceived rank in a formal hierarchy, namely supergroup, group, formation, member and bed.

- Maar: a broad, low-rimmed volcanic crater formed by collapse within a shallow cone produced by **phreatic** or **phreatomagmatic** eruptions. Generally composed of less **juvenile** material than a **tuff-ring**. Commonly contains a lake, also termed a maar.
- **Mafic**: descriptive of dark-coloured minerals, rich in *magnesium* and/or iron (*Fe*), or an igneous rock containing substantial proportions of these minerals, mainly amphibole, pyroxene or olivine; the opposite of **felsic**.
- Magma: molten rock beneath the Earth's surface.
- Magma chamber: a large body of magma that has accumulated within the Earth's crust or upper mantle.
- Mantle: part of the interior of the Earth, beneath the crust and above the core.
- **Mass-flow**: the transport, down slope under the force of gravity, of large, coherent masses of sediment, **tephra** or rock; commonly assisted by the incorporation of water, ice or air.
- **Megacryst**: any crystal in a crystalline rock that is very much larger than the surrounding groundmass.
- Mélange: a chaotic rock unit, characterized by a lack of internal continuity of contacts between component blocks and including fragments of a wide range of composition and size.
- **Melanocratic**: descriptive of dark-coloured igneous rocks rich in **mafic** minerals.
- Member: a lithostratigraphical unit, hierarchically higher than 'bed' and lower than 'formation'.
- Mesocratic: descriptive of igneous rocks intermediate between leucocratic and melanocratic in colour.
- Mesostasis: the groundmass in an igneous rock.
- Meta: prefix added to any rock name to indicate a metamorphosed variety, e.g. metabasalt is a metamorphosed basalt.
- Metaluminous: degree of alumina-saturation in igneous rocks in which the molecular proportion of  $Al_2O_3$  is greater than that of  $Na_2O + K_2O$ , but less than that of  $Na_2O + K_2O + CaO$ .
- Metasomatism: a process involving fluids that introduce or remove chemical constituents from rock thus changing its chemical and mineralogical composition without melting.

- **Mid-ocean ridge**: a continuous median mountain range within the oceans along which new oceanic **crust** is generated by volcanic activity.
- Mid-ocean ridge basalt (MORB): a type of tholeiitic basalt, generated at mid-ocean ridges. A worldwide, voluminous basalt type widely used as a fundamental standard for comparative geochemistry.
- **Miospore**: a fossil spore or pollen grain that is less than 200 microns in diameter.
- Moho (=Mohorovicic Discontinuity): the boundary surface within the Earth below which there is an abrupt increase in seismic velocity; marks the base of the **crust** above the underlying **mantle**. Geophysical and petrological criteria define slightly different positions for the boundary.
- Monchiquite: an alkaline variety of lamprophyre, similar to camptonite except that the groundmass is feldspar-free, being composed almost entirely of glass and feldspathoids.
- **Mugearite:** a fine-grained, **mafic**, **intermediate** igneous rock, belonging to the **alkali basalt** suite (see Figures G.1, G.5 and G.6).
- Namurian Series: a chronostratigraphical division; the lowermost series of the Silesian (Upper Carboniferous) sub-System in Europe, dated at 327–315 Ma. It follows the Visean Series and precedes the Westphalian Series.
- Neck: the feeder 'pipe' of an ancient volcano, which has been infilled with collapsed material from the surface vent and commonly intruded by further magma to form a plug, after the cessation of eruption. Exposed due to subsequent erosion.
- **Norm**: a recalculation of the chemical composition of an igneous rock to obtain a theoretical mineralogical ('normative') composition; useful for classification purposes and for comparison with experimental studies of **magma** crystallization.
- Ocean island basalt (OIB): a compositionally diverse type of basalt, ranging from tholeiitic to alkali basalt, characteristic of within-plate oceanic settings.
- **Orogenesis**: crustal thickening following the collision of tectonic plates and resulting from magmatism, folding, thrusting and accretion, leading to regional uplift and mountain building.

- Pahoehoe: basalt lava with a smooth, ropy surface.
- Palaeosol: an ancient or 'fossilized' soil.
- Palaeozoic Era: a geological time division (era; cf. chronostratigraphy), ranging from 545 to 248 million years ago. The Carboniferous and Permian periods occur at the end of this era.
- **Partial melting**: the incomplete melting of a rock to produce a **magma** that differs in composition from the parent rock.
- **Pegmatitic:** textural description of an area within an igneous rock that is notably more coarsely crystalline and commonly forming **veins** and **dykes** (contrast with **aplitic**).
- **Peléan**: a volcanic eruption characterized by gaseous ash clouds associated with the growth and collapse of volcanic domes.
- **Peperite:** a **breccia** characterized by isolated blocks and lobes of igneous rock, commonly chilled and mixed with **fluidized** host sediment; typically present at the margins of high-level **sills** intruded into water-bearing sediment.
- **Peralkaline**: the degree of alumina-saturation in igneous rocks in which the molecular proportion of  $Al_2O_3$  is less than that of  $Na_2O + K_2O$ .
- **Peraluminous**: the degree of alumina-saturation in igneous rocks in which the molecular proportion of  $Al_2O_3$  is greater than that of  $Na_2O + K_2O$ .
- **Peridotite**: a coarse-grained, **ultramafic**, **ultrabasic** igneous rock consisting predominantly of olivine with varying amounts of orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene (see Figures G.3 and G.4).
- **Period**: a geological time unit (cf. **chronostratigraphy**), of shorter duration than an **era** and itself divisible into **epochs**.
- **Permian Period**: a geological time division (**period**; cf. **chronostratigraphy**), ranging from about 290 until 248 million years ago. It follows the **Carboniferous Period** and precedes the Triassic Period.
- Petrogenesis: the origin and evolution of rocks.
- **Petrography**: the study of the mineralogy, texture and systematic classification of rocks, especially under the microscope.
- **Petrology:** the study of the origin, occurrence, structure and history of rocks; includes **petrography** and **petrogenesis**.
- **Phenocryst**: a crystal in an igneous rock that is larger than those of the groundmass, usually having crystallized at an earlier stage.

- **Phonolite:** a fine-grained, **felsic**, **silica-undersaturated** igneous rock containing significant amounts of feldspathoid minerals (see Figures G.1 and G.5).
- **Phreatic**: descriptive of a volcanic eruption or explosion of steam, not involving **juvenile** material, that is caused by the expansion of groundwater due to an underlying igneous heat source.
- **Phreatomagmatic**: descriptive of explosive volcanic activity caused by the contact of **magma** with large volumes of water, producing intensely fine ash and abundant steam.
- Phreatoplinian: a rare type of explosive volcanic eruption and its deposits produced by phreatomagmatic processes (contrast with plinian).
- -phyric: as in 'plagioclase-phyric', a porphyritic rock containing phenocrysts of plagioclase.
- **Picrite:** a term originally used to describe a variety of **dolerite** or **basalt** extremely rich in olivine and pyroxene. Now defined chemically as a group name for rocks with  $SiO_2 < 47\%$ , total alkalis < 2% and MgO > 18%.
- **Pillow lava:** subaqueously erupted **lava**, usually basaltic in composition, comprising an accumulation of smooth pillow shapes and **lava tubes** produced by rapid chilling.
- **Playa**: a flat plain on the coast or at the centre of an inland drainage basin found in arid areas.
- **Plinian**: a type of explosive volcanic eruption and its deposits; **magma** is fragmented through the release of magmatic gas and released at high velocity to form an eruption column that extends high into the Earth's atmosphere.
- **Plug:** the solidified remains of a cylindrical intrusion of **magma**, commonly **intrusive** into, or associated with, a volcanic **neck**.
- **Pluton:** an intrusion of igneous rock, emplaced at depth in the Earth's **crust**.
- **Plutonic**: descriptive of igneous rocks formed at depth in the Earth's **crust**.
- **Poikilitic:** a textural term for an igneous rock in which small crystals of one mineral are enclosed within a larger crystal of another mineral.
- **Porphyritic**: a textural term for an igneous rock in which larger crystals (**phenocrysts**) are set in a finer-grained or glassy groundmass.
- **Porphyroblast**: a large, well-formed crystal that grew *in situ* during metamorphic recrystal-

lization and typically encloses finer-grained crystals that formed earlier.

- **Porphyry:** a field term for an igneous rock that contains **phenocrysts** within a fine-grained groundmass of indeterminate composition; usually preceded by a mineral qualifier indicating the type of **phenocryst** present, e.g. feldspar porphyry.
- **Protolith**: the source rock from which an igneous rock was formed, most commonly by melting.

Proximal: near to the source.

- **Pseudomorph**: a replacement product, composed either of a single mineral or an assemblage of minerals, that retains the distinctive overall shape of the parent crystal.
- **Pumice**: light-coloured **pyroclast** of generally **acid**, highly vesicular, glass foam.
- **Pyroclast:** a fragment (clast) ejected from a volcano; the terms ash, lapilli, and block or bomb are used to describe pyroclasts that are respectively less than 2 mm, 2–64 mm and more than 64 mm in diameter.
- **Pyroclastic**: descriptive of unconsolidated deposits (**tephra**) and rocks that form directly by explosive ejection from a volcano.
- **Pyroclastic breccia**: a rock comprising predominantly angular **pyroclasts** with an average size greater than 64 mm in diameter.
- **Pyroclastic fall deposit: tephra** deposited by fall-out from a volcanic eruption cloud.
- **Pyroclastic flow**: a volcanic avalanche; a hot density current comprising **pyroclasts** and gases, erupted as a consequence of the explosive disintegration of **magma** and/or hot rock; also describes the deposit from this eruption.
- **Pyroclastic surge**: similar to a **pyroclastic** flow but turbulent and less dense.
- **Pyroxenite:** a coarse-grained, **ultramafic** igneous rock consisting predominantly of orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene, with lesser amounts of olivine in varying proportions (see Figures G.3 and G.4).
- **Radiometric age**: the age in years calculated from the decay of radioactive elements.
- **Red beds**: a collective term applied to continental sedimentary successions that are predominantly red in colour owing to the presence of iron oxides and hydroxides formed in a highly oxidizing environment.
- Restite: the material remaining after partial melting.

- **Rhyolite**: a fine-grained, felsic, acid igneous rock (see Figures G.1, G.5 and G.6).
- **RIGS**: Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological Sites.
- **Rifting:** the thinning, and rupture along **faults**, of the **lithosphere** under extensional stress, commonly accompanied by upwelling of hot material from the **asthenosphere** below.
- **Scoriaceous**: descriptive of **lavas** that are very highly vesiculated, giving them a 'clinkery' appearance.
- Seismic profile: a cross-section of the lithosphere, constructed by creating artificial earthquakes using explosives or other vibrating devices, and then recording the vibrations that pass through the Earth to an array of instruments at a range of distances along a pre-determined line.
- Series: a chronostratigraphical unit; it comprises all the rocks formed during an epoch and can be divided into stages.
- Serpentinization: hydrothermal alteration of ultramafic rocks in which the mafic minerals are replaced by a range of hydrous secondary minerals, collectively known as 'serpentine'.
- **Shearing**: the deformation of a rock body by the sliding of one part relative to another part, in a direction parallel to their plane of contact.
- **Sheet flood**: a broad expanse of rapidly moving water and debris, not confined to a channel and usually of short duration due to rapid run-off in an arid area.
- Silesian sub-System: a chronostratigraphical division; equivalent to the Upper Carboniferous in Europe, dated at 327–290 Ma. It is preceded by the Dinantian sub-System, and comprises the Namurian, Westphalian and Stephanian series.
- Silica-saturation: a measure of the amount of silica available to form the major mineral components of an igneous rock, usually calculated from the **norm**. Silica-oversaturated rocks may contain free silica as quartz; silica-undersaturated rocks may contain feldspathoids in addition to feldspars.

Silicic: alternative term to acid.

- **Sill**: a tabular body of igneous rock, originally intruded as a sub-horizontal sheet and generally concordant with the **bedding** or **foliation** in the **country rocks**.
- **Slickensides**: linear grooves and ridges formed on a fault surface as rocks move against each other along the fault plane.

- **Spheroidal weathering**: a type of weathering commonly found in **mafic** and **ultramafic** rocks; also known as 'onion-skin' weathering, because it leads to the formation of a flaky, weathered zone around a central, unweathered, spherical core.
- **Spherulite**: a spherical mass of acicular crystals, commonly feldspar, radiating from a central point; commonly found in glassy **silicic** volcanic rocks as a result of **devitrification**.
- Stage: a chronostratigraphical unit; it comprises all the rocks formed during an age, and is usually taken to be the smallest standard unit.
- Stephanian Series: a chronostratigraphical division; the uppermost series of the Silesian (Upper Carboniferous) sub-System in Europe, dated at 303–290 Ma. It follows the Westphalian Series and precedes the Permian Period.
- **Stock**: a small, discordant igneous **intrusion**, usually sub-cylindrical and with steep margins.
- **Stoping**: the emplacement of **magma** by detaching pieces of **country rock** which either sink through or are **assimilated** by the **magma**.
- **Stratovolcano**: a cone-shaped volcano with a layered internal structure.
- Strike-slip: see transcurrent.
- **Strombolian**: type of volcanic eruption and its deposits characterized by continuous small explosive 'fountains' of fluid basaltic **lava** from a central crater.
- **Subduction**: the process of one **lithospheric** plate descending beneath another during plate convergence.
- Syenite: a coarse-grained, felsic, intermediate igneous rock (see Figure G.2).
- System: a chronostratigraphical unit; it comprises all the rocks formed during a period, and can be divided into series.
- **Tectonic**: referring to the movements and deformation of the **crust** on a large scale.
- **Tectonic inversion**: a change in the relative elevation of a block of **crust** (e.g. a **basin** becomes a basement high or vice versa), brought about by the reversal of movement direction along structures such as **faults**, due to a change in regional forces.
- Tephra: an unconsolidated accumulation of pyroclasts.
- **Terrane**: a fault-bound body of oceanic or continental **crust** having a geological history that is distinct from that of contiguous bodies.

- **Thermal subsidence**: subsidence caused by the sinking of the **lithosphere** as it thickens and cools through heat conduction to the surface, after the end of a period of extension and active **rifting**.
- Tholeiitic: descriptive of a suite of silicaoversaturated igneous rocks, characterized chemically by strong iron enrichment relative to magnesium during the early stages of evolution of the magma; formed in extensional within-plate settings, at constructive plate margins and in island arcs.
- **Tonstein:** a term used, especially in central Europe, for thin beds of kaolin-rich clay in coal-bearing strata, possibly of **volcaniclastic** origin (see **bentonite**).
- Tournaisian Series: a chronostratigraphical division; the lowermost series of the Dinantian (Lower Carboniferous) sub-System in Europe, dated at 354–342 Ma. It follows the Devonian Period and precedes the Visean Series.
- **Trachyte**: a fine-grained, **felsic**, **intermediate** igneous rock (see Figures G.1, G.5 and G.6).
- **Transcurrent** (or **strike-slip**): a large-scale, steeply dipping **fault** or shear, along which the movement is predominantly horizontal. Movement may be either left-lateral (sinistral) or right-lateral (dextral).
- **Transgression**: used herein to refer to the point where a **sill** 'steps up' or 'steps down', in changing from one stratigraphical horizon to another.
- **Transitional basalt**: a **basalt** that is intermediate between an **alkali basalt** and a tholeiite.
- **Transpression**: crustal shortening as a result of oblique compression across a **transcurrent** fault or shear zone.
- **Transtension**: crustal extension as a result of oblique tension across a **transcurrent** fault or shear zone leading to localized rifts or **basins**.
- **Trap topography**: descriptive of the typical terrain found on predominantly basaltic **lava** fields, in which layers of resistant **lava** form cliffs or steep slopes, separated by flat or gently sloping ledges representing more easily weathered material. The ledges form either on the tops and bottoms of flows, or on interflow sedimentary and **pyroclastic** rocks.
- Tuff: a rock comprising pyroclasts with an average grain size less than 2 mm.

- **Tuff-breccia:** a **pyroclastic** rock in which between 25 and 75% of the **pyroclasts** are greater than 64 mm in diameter.
- **Tuffisite:** an **intrusive tuff**, which can be formed by the mechanical breakdown of rocks close to a rock fracture, due to the passage of volcanic gasses.
- **Tuffite**: a tuffaceous sedimentary rock, i.e. one that contains a significant proportion (25–75%) of **pyroclastic** fragments in addition to sedimentary **clasts**.
- **Tuff-ring:** a shallow cone of **pyroclastic** deposits formed by **phreatic** or **phreatomagmatic** eruptions. Generally composed of a higher proportion of **juvenile** materials than a **maar** volcano and lacking the broad collapse crater.
- **Turbidite**: a clastic rock formed through deposition from subaqueous sediment-laden density currents (turbidity currents) that move swiftly down slope under the influence of gravity.
- **Ultrabasic**: descriptive of an igneous rock with a silica content less than that of **basic** rocks (less than 45% SiO<sub>2</sub>).
- **Ultramafic**: descriptive of an igneous rock in which dark-coloured minerals (amphibole, pyroxene, olivine) comprise more than 90% of the rock.
- Variscan Orogeny: a period of orogenesis that occurred during the Carboniferous Period and affected rocks in south-west England, south Wales and southern Ireland.
- Vein: a term frequently used for an intrusion of igneous rock, commonly irregular, which is narrower than a **dyke** or a **sill**, i.e. a few cm wide or less. This contrasts with general usage, e.g. for mineral veins that can be of any width.
- Vent: that part of a volcano at which the lava and/or **pyroclastic** rocks are erupted onto the surface.
- **Vesicle**: a gas bubble cavity, usually in a **lava** or shallow intrusion.
- Visean Series: a chronostratigraphical division; the uppermost series of the Dinantian (Lower Carboniferous) sub-System in Europe, dated at 342–327 Ma. It follows the Tournaisian Series and precedes the Namurian Series.
- Vitroclastic: descriptive of a pyroclastic rock characterized by fragments of glass.

#### Glossary

- **Volcaniclastic**: generally applied to a clastic rock containing mainly material derived from volcanic activity, but without regard for its origin or environment of deposition (includes **pyroclastic** rocks and sedimentary rocks containing volcanic debris).
- **Volcanotectonic fault**: **fault** along which the displacement occurred through sub-surface movement of **magma** or during its eruption.
- **Vug**: a cavity in a rock, with a lining of crystalline minerals.
- **Websterite**: a **pyroxenite** consisting mainly of orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene with little olivine (see Figure G.4).
- Wehrlite: a peridotite consisting mainly of olivine and clinopyroxene (see Figure G.4).
- Welded tuff: a glass-rich pyroclastic rock in which the grains have been welded together because of heat and volatiles retained by the

particles and the weight of the overlying material (not synonymous with ignimbrite though many ancient ignimbrites are welded).

- Westphalian Series: a chronostratigraphical division; the middle series of the Silesian (Upper Carboniferous) sub-System in Europe, dated at 315–303 Ma. It follows the Namurian Series and precedes the Stephanian Series.
- **Xenocryst:** a crystal, like a **phenocryst**, but which is foreign to the igneous rock in which it is found.
- **Xenolith**: a rock fragment that is foreign to the igneous rock in which it is found.
- Zeolites: a group of hydrous alumino-silicate minerals formed at relatively low temperatures, particularly during the later stages of cooling of volcanic rocks.



Figure G.1 The classification of fine-grained felsic and mafic crystalline igneous rocks, based upon their felsic mineral content. The distinction between basalt and andesite and between trachybasalt and trachyandesite is based on the composition of the plagioclase feldspar present. For divisions of the trachyandesite + trachybasalt fields, see Figure G.5b.



**Figure G.2** The classification of coarse-grained felsic and mafic crystalline igneous rocks, based upon their felsic mineral content. The distinction between gabbroic rocks and diorite is based upon the composition of the plagioclase feldspar present. Medium-grained rocks are named by attaching the prefix 'micro', for example microsyenite. However, in this volume and commonly elsewhere, dolerite is used as a synonym for microgabbro.



Figure G.3 The more detailed classification of coarsegrained mafic crystalline igneous rocks, falling in the gabbroic rocks field of Figure G.2, based upon their plagioclase, olivine and clinopyroxene content. Note that other varieties of gabbroic rock, containing orthopyroxene, do not occur in this essentially alkaline igneous province, except as lower crustal xenoliths (see Chapter 1).



Figure G.5 The most usual chemical classification of fine-grained crystalline igneous rocks (e.g. Le Maitre, 2002), used when it is not possible to classify according to their mineralogy due to very fine grain size. Note that alteration can result in the loss or addition of highly mobile elements such as sodium (Na) and potassium (K), with consequent changes in silica (SiO<sub>2</sub>) and inaccuracies in classification. (a) Total alkalis (Na<sub>2</sub>O + K<sub>2</sub>O) versus silica (SiO<sub>2</sub>). (b) Rocks in the shaded area of (a) can be subdivided according to their Na<sub>2</sub>O/K<sub>2</sub>O ratio. However, most Dinantian igneous rocks of Great Britain fall close to the dividing line between sodic and potassic affinities and hence are difficult to classify. In much of the older literature (before c. 1975), without the benefit of analyses, the terms 'trachybasalt' and 'trachyandesite' are commonly used in a general sense for both sodic and potassic types.

# Glossary



Figure G.6 The classification of fine-grained crystalline igneous rocks that is most commonly used in geochemical studies of Carboniferous and Permian igneous rocks of Great Britain. Modified by Macdonald (1975) after Coombs and Wilkinson (1969).

Table G.1 Local nomenclature of basic igneous rocks of Carboniferous and Permian age i	n Scotland, as used
on Geological Survey maps and in most literature since 1928. Now being replaced by m	ore-standard termi-
nology based on dominant phenocrysts and, where possible, the chemical composition.	(pl = plagioclase,
ol = olivine, cpx = clinopyroxene, fetiox = iron-titanium oxides.)	

Basalt type of	Phenocrysts		Chemical classification after	Type locality	
MacGregor (1928)	abundant may be present in lesser amounts		Macdonald (1975)		
Macroporphyritic	c (phenocrysts >	2mm)	TT 222 04 04	Here and the second	
Markle	pl	± ol, fetiox	pl $\pm$ ol $\pm$ fetiox-phyric hawaiite, basaltic hawaiite	Markle Quarry, East Lothian	
			or basalt		
Dunsapie	pl + ol + cpx	± fetiox	$ol + cpx + pl \pm fetiox-$ phyric basaltic hawaiite or ol + cpx + pl-phyric basalt	Dunsapie Hill, Edinburgh (neck intrusion)	
Craiglockhart	ol + cpx		ol ± cpx-phyric picrobasalt or basanite	Craiglockhart Hill, Edinburgh (flow)	
Microporphyritic	(phenocrysts <	2mm)			
Jedburgh	pl	± ol, fetiox	$pl \pm ol \pm fetiox-phyric$ hawaiite, basaltic hawaiite or in some cases basalt	Little Caldon, Stirling- shire (plug). Also in Jedburgh area	
Dalmeny	ol	± cpx, pl	ol $\pm$ cpx-phyric basalt	Dalmeny Church, West Lothian (flow)	
Hillhouse	ol + cpx	and and an an and a second	ol ± cpx-phyric basalt or basanite	Hillhouse Quarry, West Lothian (sill)	

Note: Page numbers in **bold** and *italic* type refer to **tables** and *figures* respectively

Abbey Hill Shale 66-7 Acre Limestone 258, 272 Alston Block 111, 224, 229, 277 AMS (anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility) 220-1 Amygdales/vesicles 10, 52, 263-4, 266, 269-74 Anstruther Formation 43 Appleby Group 171 Ardross Fault 152, 159-61, 162 control on East Fife volcanic necks 155-6, 164, 165 influence on sedimentary basins 16, 17, 112 result of re-activated basement structures 155-6, 164, 165 Ardrossan to Saltcoats Coast GCR site 11, 12, 15, 190-5, 191, 192 Armorica 16 Arthropod fauna 115, 142, 143, 149 Arthur's Seat Volcanic Formation 5, 43 Arthur's Seat Volcano 7, 17, 43, 64-74 Calton Hill lavas and tuffs 43, 66-7, 72 Dry Dam tuffs and volcaniclastic sedimentary rocks 68-9, 73 dykes 67, 73 GCR site 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 24, 64-74, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71

hydrothermal alteration 69, 73 minor intrusions 69 plugs and necks 43, 64-5, 67, 68, 71, 72, 73 radiometric ages 39 sills 62, 65, 68, 69, 71, 71, 72-3 see also Castle Rock (Edinburgh); Holyrood Park; Whinny Hill Asthenosphere 23, 26-7, 34, 285 Autobrecciated rocks 52, 74, 95, 311 Avalonia 15, 16, 25, 112 Ayrshire Basin 150, 175, 182, 183 Ayrshire Bauxitic Clay Member 150-1, 190, 191, 194-5 Ballagan Formation 39, 41, 47, 56, 60, 61, 65, 90, 91-4, 104-8, 180 Bangley Member 47, 53, 58 Barracks Ash 44 Barren Red Measures 203 Barrow Hill Complex 285, 301-5 basalt pipes 303, 304 dolerite intrusions 303, 304 phreatic eruptions 302,

301-5, 302, 304 Basal Beds 113, 117, 117, 120 Basalt see Rock-types, basalt Basins, sedimentary basement lineaments 18, 90, 281 compressional 19-20 development 16, 17, 19, 111, 119, 147, 149, 169, 281 focus of volcanism 17, 112, 217 fractured hinge lines 112, 119 Midland Valley 16-18, 19, 21 re-activated Caledonian basement structures 16, 17, 112, 156, 169, 172 sill emplacement 175, 178 subsidence 19, 23, 129 Upper Old Red Sandstone 129 see also individually named basins - Baston Burn Member 81-2 Bath-house Wood Limestone 255-6 Bathgate Hills Volcanic Formation 5, 39, 44, 149, 185 Bathgate Hills 17, 19, 149-50 necks and plugs 150 synsedimentary mineralization 150 volcanoes 150

Barrow Hill GCR site 13, 14,

volcanic vent 301-2, 304

volcaniclastic deposits 302-3

305

Bee Low Limestones 284, 286-7, 288, 290, 291, 297-8 alteration 294 biostratigraphical dating 291, 295 karstic surface 288 Benbeoch GCR site 12, 14, 202-5, 202, 203, 204 **Bewcastle Anticline 142** Biostratigraphy 56-7, 115, 142-3, 149, 297, 305-9, 315 see also Arthropod fauna; Fish remains; Miospore zonation; Plant assemblages **Birnbeck Limestone 309 Birrenswark Volcanic Formation** 5, 22, 24, 103, 113, 114-15, 125-30, 127, 130, 134, 139-41 basin development 129-30 contemporaneous with Kelso and Cockermouth lavas 129, 132, 138 isopachytes 113, 129, 132 minor intrusions 115-16, 128, 132-5 radiometric age 114 sources 116 tholeiitic basalts 128-9, 132 Black Mount Member 84 Black Rock Dolomite 305, 307 Black Rock Limestone 305-8 Blackhall Limestone 238, 239 Blocks and rafts (large clasts) 48, 51-2, 62, 69, 91, 152, 154, 159, 159-61, 160, 303, 310, 311-12, 316 Bo'ness Line 19 Boreholes Archerbeck 115, 142 Craigston House 196, 197-9, 199 Crook 219, 228 Cwrt-yr-Ala 316 Ettersgill 219 Harton 219, 228, 229, 229 Humphrey Head 154 Longcleugh 219 Longhorseley 219 Lugar Water 197-9, 199 Machrihanish 151 Mortonmuir 196, 197-9, 199 Rashiehill 44, 47

Rookhope 219, 228, 267, 268 Salsburgh 44 Spilmersford 56, 57, 181 Throckley 219, 228 Whitley Bay 219 Woodland 219, 228, 268 Bothel Craggs Quarry GCR site 11, 113, 120-2, 120, 121 **Bowland Basin 19** Budle Limestone 263, 265 **Budle Point to Harkess Rocks** GCR site 10, 13, 15, 263-6, 264, 265 **Burdiehouse Limestone 44** Burntisland Anticline 43, 181 Burntisland to Kinghorn Coast GCR site 10, 11, 17, 19, 43, 74-8, 75 **Burntisland Volcanic** Formation see Kinghorn **Volcanic Formation** Burtreeford Disturbance 227, 252 Calderas 55, 84-5 Calmy Limestone 244 Calton Hill (Edinburgh) see Arthur's Seat Volcano Calton Hill GCR site (Derbyshire) 13, 28, 288, 296-9, 296, 298 **Calton Hill Volcanic Complex** (Derbyshire) 288, 292, 296-9 basalt lava 297 dolerite dykes 297 hydrothermal mineralization 297-9 ultramafic nodules 296, 297-9 see also Derbyshire Campsie Fells 40, 41-2, 86 alteration 88, 90 dykes 90 GCR site 11, 14, 41, 42, 44, 85-92,87 Jenny's Lum hawaiite 88-90, 89 lavas 22, 82, 88-90, 88, 90-1 linear vent systems 41-2, 44, 46, 84-5, 86, 89-90 vent intrusions 89-90 Carboniferous Limestone 139, 300

Carron Basalt Formation 5. 154, 166, 170-2, 172 Carron Water GCR site 12, 14, 170-2, 170, 172 Castle Rock (Edinburgh) 64-5, 67, 68, 72, 73 Castle Rock (Stirling) 222 Castlecary Limestone 149, 243 Caswell Bay Mudstone 309 Cementstone Group 115, 135, 137, 138 Charles Hill Volcanic Member 43 Cheviot Massif (Block) 111, 113, 114, 134, 135 Chief Limestone Group 1, 113, 117-18 Clackmannan Group 236 Clackmannan Syncline 20, 233 Classification and nomenclature of igneous rocks 6, 7, 178, 348-9, 358, 359, 360, 361, 361 Clee Hill Quarries GCR site 13, 14, 299-301, 300, 301 Clee Hills Sill 299, 300-1 Clyde Plateau lava field 9, 14, 85, 108, 149 Clyde Plateau Volcanic Formation 5, 17, 39, 40, 42-7, 77-85, 88-9, 91, 93-4, 95, 99-104, 108 composite lavas 89, 94-99 correlation of sections 45 differentiation series 81 disconformable base 101, 102 flood basalts 129 lithostratigraphy 79, 81-4, 82, 88 seismic data 47 south Kintyre lavas 101-4 trap features 79, 80, 85 **Clyde Sandstone Formation** 39, 41, 46, 79-80, 81, 83, 84, 87, 95 Coal Measures 184, 241, 299-301, 301, 303 Lower 151, 244 Middle 151, 152, 154, 155, 162, 163, 171, 223 Upper 153, 166, 182, 203 Coal rank enhancement 178, 204, 229, 243

Cockermouth Lavas 5, 7, 8, 22, 24-5, 113-14, 116-25, 117, 124, 139, 227 age 118-19, 124 coeval with Kelso Lavas 130, 132 eruption 118-10, 124 mineralogical alteration 118, 121 tholeiitic basalts 128 vents 119 Cockle Shell Limestone 252. 255 Colonsay Group 210 Columnar jointing Arthur's Seat Volcano 68-70, 70, 72 Benbeoch Sill 202-4, 203 Burntisland to Kinghorn Coast 75 Calton Hill (Derbyshire) 297 **Campsie Fells 88** Castle Rock (Stirling) 222 Cauldron Snout 252, 253 Clee Hills Sill 300-1, 301 Corsiehill Quarry 248, 249 Cullernose Point to Castle Point 259, 260-2, 261, 263 Dumbarton Rock 91, 93-4 East Fife Coast 158, 162, 162 Great Whin Sill 253, 256-7, 260, 261 Hareheugh Craigs 133 Holy Island 273 Little Whin Sill 268-9, 272 Lomond Hills Sill 238, 239 Longhoughton Quarry 257-8 Low Force 252 Mollinsburn 244, 245 North Berwick Coast 51, 52 Sewingshields Crags 256 South Queensferry to Hound Point 186 Water Swallows Sill 290, 290 Cones, volcanic 41, 42, 54, 72, 73, 76-7, 83, 85, 89, 91, 107-8 phreatomagmatic origins 107-8, 164, 165, 299, 307-9 Cornbrook Sandstone 300 'Cornstones' (concretionary carbonate) 136, 137-8

Corsiehill Quarry GCR site 12, 246-9, 248 Cottonshope basalts 5, 113, 114-15, 136-8 contemporaneous with Kelso Lavas 138 subaerial environment 137 volcanic succession 136-7 Cottonshope Head Quarry GCR site 11, 115, 135-8, 136 Craighead Quarry GCR site 12, 14, 206-10, 206, 207, 208 Craiglockhart Hill 43, 64, 72 basaltic lava and tuff 125 Crater lakes (maars) 41, 54, 69, 107 Crosswood Ash 44 Crustal contamination 25, 26, 27-8, 59, 104 Crystal fractionation (fractional crystallization) 23, 26-7, 54-5, 59, 73, 98, 119-20, 134-5, 180, 181, 189, 195, 201, 209, 248, 292 Cullernose Point to Castle Point GCR site 13, 15, 259-63, 260, 261 Cumulates olivine-clinopyroxene (wehrlites) 24, 29, 31 olivine-clinopyroxeneplagioclase (gabbros) 24 pyroxenites 31 Dalmahoy Sill 225 Depositional provinces 15-16

Derbyshire basalt 121, 281 bentonite 284-5, 287-8 biostratigraphical dating 281 Carboniferous outcrop distribution 282 lavas 281-5 mantle xenoliths 28 pyroclastic rocks 281, 284 sills 281, 284-5 tholeiitic igneous rocks 22, 25, 121 volcanism and carbonate sedimentation 8 see also Calton Hill Volcanic Complex (Derbyshire);

Litton Mill Railway Cutting GCR Site; Tideswell Dale GCR site; Water Swallows Quarry GCR site Derbyshire Dome 18, 281 Dubh Loch GCR site 12, 28, 210-3, 211, 212 radiometric dating 14, 211 Dumbarton Rock GCR site 11, 41, 46, 91-4, 92, 94 alteration 92, 95 subsided block within ringfault 94, 94 Dunrod Hill GCR site 11, 24, 46, 94-9, 96, 98 porphyritic and aphyric lava facies 97-8 Dunstanburgh Sandstone 260, 260 - 2Durisdeer Formation 171-2 Dykes 176, 218, 219 composite 106 compositionally zoned 99, 107 emplaced along fault planes 224-6, 227, 229, 233, 235, 244, 246, 259, 277 xenoliths/xenocrysts 28, 159, 185 see also Dykes (named); Quartz-dolerite dykes Dykes (named) Bartestree 285, 316 **Bavington 276** Brockhill 285 Causey Park 276 Corsiehill 246-7 Crawfordjohn 183, 206-10 Cullernose 260-2 Erring Burn 276-7 Glen Court 312 Gribun 31 Haltwhistle 227, 275, 276 Holy Island 220, 227 Kilchatten 210-13 Lenzie-Torphichen see Lenzie-Torphichen Dyke Llanllywel 285 Prestonpans-Seton 58 Riasg Buidhe 210-11, 211 - 13St Oswald's Chapel 257 **Tingwall 31** 

Dyke-swarms 21, 42, 58, 73, 175, 218 alkaline lamprophyre (northern Highlands) 177, 213 alkaline (Scottish Highlands) 8, 26, 175 Ardgour Swarm 5, 177, 184, 185 basanite 26, 27 camptonite 26, 155, 177 Coll and Tiree Swarm 177 Eil-Arkaig Swarm 177 Hett Subswarm 227, 277 High Green Subswarm 227, 276-7 Holy Island Subswarm 227, 270, 277 Killilan Swarm 177 Iona and Ross of Mull Swarm 177 monchiquite 26, 177 Monar Swarm 177 Morar Swarm 177 Orkney Swarm 5, 184 Outer Isles 177 St Oswald's Chapel Subswarm 227, 275-7 subswarms 227, 270, 275-7 tholeiitic magmatism 217 East Fife Coast GCR site 10, 11, 14, 28, 33, 155-65, 156, 157, 160, 161, 162 East Fife Coast necks 33, 152-3, 155-65, 158 controlled by Ardross Fault 155-5, 164, 165 cryptovolcanic ring-structures 159, 161, 162, 163, 165 distribution of necks 156 lithologies 157-8, 157 minor intrusions 158-62 volcanoes 152, 164, 165 xenoliths/megacrysts 33, 161, 163, 165

see also Sill-complexes East Irish Sea Basin 154 East Kirkton Limestone 149 East Linton Member 47, 51, 58 East Midlands 283 minor volcanism 18, 20, 27, 285 sills and lavas 285 Eildon Hills laccolith complex 116 **Emplacement** mechanisms alkaline sills fed by magma from pipes 175 elutriation 181, 195 flow differentiation 98-9, 221-2 flow directions (sills and dykes) 8,220, 221, 233, 236, 266, 274-5 multiple pulses of magma 99, 135, 180, 182, 194-5, 196, 201-2, 222, 292 sequential intrusion of differentiates 182, 195 tholeiitic dykes and sills seeking hydrostatic equilibrium 8, 220, 221, 230, 232, 236, 244, 246, 262 see also Phreatomagmatic events and deposits Eruption styles 41-3 calderas 42, 55, 84-5 explosive 20 fissure eruptions 42, 44, 84, 95, 108, 119 hawaiian/strombolian 76 shield volcanoes 42 stratovolcanoes 42 Surtseyan style 72, 153, 164 see also Phreatomagmatic events and deposits Etruria Formation 302-4, 305 Eycott Volcanic Group (Ordovician) 113, 118-19 olivine-dolerite dykes 124, 227 Faeroe-Shetland Trough 21

Fault intrusions 224–5, 241, 242, 243 Fault risers 225, 233, 235, 236, 244, 246, 266 Faults Abbey Craig 235 Annathill 244 Ardross see Ardross Fault Ardrossan Harbour 195 Arndean 241, 243 Auchenbowie 81, 235 Balmenoch Burn 81 Calton 66 Campsie 7, 41, 44, 88, 90

Causey Pike 125 Colesnaughton 150 Cushat Shiel 260 Dunbar-Gifford 41, 43, 47 Dunrod 95 Dusk Water 19, 41, 46, 150 East Ochil 152 Flodden 112 Ford 112 Gilcrux 113, 119 Heck's Burn 142 Highland Boundary 18, 23, 37, 39, 46, 95, 99-100, 103-4, 104, 169, 224 Inchgotrick 19, 41, 46, 150, 169 Inverkip faults 95 Kerse Loch 19, 169, 182 Largs Fault Zone 95 Leith Links 66 Longhoughton 228, 258-9 Lunedale 229 Maryport 112, 113, 119 Mumbie 142 Ninety Fathom 112 Ochil see Ochil Fault Oxroad Bay 50 Paisley Ruck 41, 46 Pressen 112 ring-faults 42, 94, 94 Rosyth 181 St Margaret's 71 Southern Upland 18, 41, 43, 47, 59-60, 63, 152, 169, 182 Stublick 112 Teesdale 229, 250 Wallstale 81, 233-5 West Ochil 243 see also Lineaments (volcanotectonic) Fell Sandstone Group 137 Fidra basanite 52-4, 55 radiometric ages 55 Fin Glen Lava Member 89-90 **Fintry Hills Member 84** Fish remains 14, 68, 73, 115, 141, 142-3, 156 Five Yard Limestone 255 Foraminiferans 115

Gargunnock Member 84 Garleton Hills GCR site 11, 43, 47, 55, 56–60, 56 Garleton Hills Volcanic Formation 5, 17, 42, 43, 47, 55, 56-61, 63 stratigraphy 58 Garnet lherzolite 22, 23, 26, 33, 55 GCR site selection process 10-15, 11-13 Geophysical surveys gravity 9, 149 magnetometry 8, 9, 149, 208, 255, 256-7, 262, 270, 273 - 4palaeomagnetism 220, 270, 273 seismic 9, 47 Gill Beck GCR site 11, 116-20, 116, 117 Glas Eilean lavas 5, 154-5, 184 Glencartholm Volcanic Beds 5. 113, 115, 116, 128-9, 139, 140, 141-3 Glimmerite 29, 212 Gloom Hill, Dollar GCR site 12, 223, 241-4, 242 Golden Hill Quarry aeromagnetic data 313 circulatory flow system 315 diatreme pipe 312, 314, 315 GCR site 13, 14, 28, 312-16, 313, 314 mafic/ultramafic megacrysts 313-16 transition from monchiquite to agglomerate 315-16 weathering 311-12 xenoliths 313-16 Gondwana 15, 16, 17, 20 Gowk Stane Member 46 Great Limestone 258-9, 260 Great Whin Sill 6, 8, 15, 217, 226, 227-30, 249-66, 256, 265 amygdales/vesicles 263-4, 266, 272-4 associated dykes 275 basaltic intrusions into sill 259, 262-3 coal rank enhancement 229 columnar jointing 260, 261, 262 - 3contact with sedimentary rocks 263 cooling time 254

emplacement controversy 217 enclosed blocks/rafts of host rocks 228, 249, 254, 256, 257-9, 263-6, 272 - 3grain-size distribution 221, 249 hydrothermal alteration 263 intrusive nature, proof 253-7 pegmatitic zone 222, 249, 251, 252, 254 radiometric dating 227 rafts of sedimentary rock 228, 249, 254 relationship to faulting 256-7, 258-9, 262 ropy flow structures in amygdales 220, 263, 264, 266, 269, 271-3, 272, 274-5 segmented nature 257 timing of intrusion 258, 259 transgressions 249, 252, 254-7, 258, 262, 264-5, 266, 269 vesicles, quartz crystals (Dunstanburgh diamonds) 262, 263 xenoliths of sedimentary rock and fault breccia 262 zeolites (pectolite) 222, 249, 251-2, 254, 256 see also Little Whin Sill; Whin Sill-complex Greenan Castle Member 108 Greenfoot Quarry GCR site 13, 228, 267-9, 267 Gullane Formation 39, 47, 56, 185, 186-7 Gully Oolite 305, 307, 309 Hailes Member 47, 52, 58 Hareheugh Craigs GCR site 11, 116, 132-5, 133, 134 Hawaiite lavas 25, 37, 43, 59, 86, 101, 103, 140, 142, 167, 285 Arthur's Seat Volcanic

Formation 43, 66, 69, 73 Birrenswark Volcanic Formation 114, 115, 126, 128, 130–42

Clyde Plateau Volcanic Formation 44, 46, 80, 81, 83, 85, 88-9, 89, 100 Dunrod Hill 94, 95, 97-9, 98 Hareheugh Craigs 133-4 Kelso Lavas 131, 132 North Berwick Coast 52, 54, 55 see also Rock-types, hawaiite Heads of Ayr 42 GCR site 11, 28, 104-8, 105 intrusive breccias 106 mantle-derived clasts 104 sequential development 107 tuff-rings 107 volcaniclastic lithofacies 104, 104-6 wood fragments 106 Heads of Ayr Volcano 104, 107 - 8subsidence along ringfractures 107-8 Highlands and Islands 155. 184-5 analcime-dolerite sills 185-6 dyke-swarms 8, 26, 177, 213 Glas Eilean lavas 154-5, 184 necks 155 plugs 155 volcanotectonic lineaments 155, 184 Holburn Anticline 227, 273 Holehead Lavas 84, 89-90 Holy Island Dyke amygdales 270-2, 273, 274 Castle Hill 270, 273 columnar joints 273 emplacement 273 flow texture 269-70 Heugh Hill 272-3 magnetic survey 270, 273-4 palaeomagnetic survey 220, 270, 273 Plough Rock and Goldstone **Rock 273** porphyritic quartz-dolerite 270, 271, 273-4 radiometric dating 227 St Cuthbert's Isle 270-2 Scar Jockey 273 step-like transgression 274 Holy Island GCR site 10, 13, 15, 269-75, 270, 271, 272

Holyrood Park 64-5, 67-72, 67 Duddingston plug 70, 73 Duddingston pyroclastic rocks 72-3 lava lakes 73 Lion's Haunch Vent 43, 68, 69-71, 70, 73 Lion's Head Vent 43, 69, 70, 73 quartz-dolerite dyke 73 Samson's Ribs vent intrusion 69-70, 70 sills 71 Whinny Hill lavas and tuffs 64-5, 67-9, 72-3 see also Arthur's Seat Volcano; Whinny Hill Hopetoun Member 44, 149 Houston Marls 44 Howford Bridge GCR site 12, 14, 166-9, 166, 168 Hurlet Limestone 236-7 Hydrothermal alteration/mineralization 42, 69, 73, 95, 222, 263, 292, 295, 297-9 Iapetus Suture 15, 17, 25, 112 Inverclyde Group 39, 56, 60, 65, 79, 87, 91, 101, 104 Kelso Lavas 5, 22, 24, 113, 114, 125, 129, 130-5, 131, 134, 139 minor intrusions 115-16 sources 116 stratigraphy 131 Kershope Bridge GCR site 11, 25, 115, 138-40, 138 Kershopefoot basalts 5, 25, 113, 115, 138-41 **Kilpatrick Hills 40** Kilwinning Main Coal 191, 194 Kincardine Basin 18, 149-50, 243 **Kinghorn Volcanic Formation** 5, 39, 43, 74, 181 eruption styles 76-7 hyaloclastites 74, 75-7 olivine basalt lavas 74-8 pillow-like weathering 75, 76 pyroclastic deposits 76 volcanic succession 75 volcaniclastic intercalations 76-7

volcaniclastic sedimentary rocks 75-6 Kinnesswood Formation 46, 90, 101, 126, 132, 136-8, 223, 239 Kintyre lavas 99-104 **Kirkcolm Formation 208** Kirkwood Formation 39, 46, 79, 101 **Knox Pulpit Formation 223** Laccoliths 43, 54, 59-64, 61, 116, 246 Lake District Block 111, 113, 125 Langholm-Newcastleton Hills GCR site 11, 114, 116, 125-30, 126, 127 Larriston Sandstone 139 Laurentia 16, 17, 20, 25, 112 Laurussia 15, 18, 281 Lava fields 37, 41, 56, 101, 153 **Birrenswark Volcanic** Formation 129-30, 132 Clyde Plateau 37, 46 Garleton Hills 37, 56-9 Lava lakes 73, 93-4 Lava tubes 83 Lavas aa 41, 80, 88, 129, 132 basalt see Rock-types, basalt Clyde Plateau Volcanic Formation flood basalts 129 composite flows 46, 80, 81, 82-3, 84, 89, 94, 95-9, 98 continental flood-basalt characteristics 22, 80, 84 geochemistry 8 hawaiite lavas see Hawaiite lavas hyaloclastite breccias 43, 74, 76-7, 152, 288 lava dome 14, 59, 102, 103 - 5lava-flow features 101-2 mugearite lavas see Mugearite lavas ocean island basalts (OIB) 23, 26, 27 pahoehoe 41, 80, 84, 132, 137 tholeiitic affinities 3, 22, 113, 114, 132

trap features 57, 58, 80, 101, 113, 114 see also Pillow lavas Lawmuir Formation 39, 42, 108, 182 Lees Hill Member 83 Lenzie-Torphichen Dyke 225, 244, 246 columnar joints 244, 245 fault riser 246 feeder to Midland Valley Sillcomplex 246 Leven Basin 20 Lewisian Gneiss Complex 32 Liddesdale Group 224, 255, 257, 269 Limestone Coal Formation 150, 237 Lineaments (volcanotectonic) 39 basin-defined 153, 281 Castle Rock to Duddingston 73 Dumbarton-Fintry Line 17, 39, 40, 41, 42, 89, 91, 95 focus for volcanic activity 17, 18 Hareheughs Craigs 134 Highlands 155, 184 linear vent systems 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 184 magnetic anomalies 256-7 North Campsie Linear Vent System 41, 84-5, 86, 89-90 South Campsie Linear Vent System 41, 84-5 Lintmill Railway Cutting GCR site 11, 114, 130-2, 130, 131 Lithosphere 26, 34 below Midland Valley 31-4 stretching and thinning 19, 22-3, 111, 112, 119, 281, 285 Little Mell Fell Quarry GCR site 11, 114, 122-5, 122, 124 Little Wenlock Lava 285 Little Whin Sill 221, 227, 229, 267-9 composition of initial Whin Sill-complex magma 268-9 limestone assimilation hypothesis 268 relationship with host rocks 266

Litton Mill Railway Cutting GCR site 13, 14, 285-9, 286, 287 Lomond Hills GCR site 12, 236-41, 237, 238, 239 microbial bioherms 239 minor intrusions 236 partial melting of intruded strata 236, 240, 241 transgressions 238, 239, 240 volcaniclastic basalt breccias 239-40 Longhoughton Quarry GCR site 13, 257-9, 258 Lower Border Group 114, 125, 137 Lower Freestone Beds 136, 137-9 Lower Limestone Formation 46, 149-50, 180, 233-4, 236-40 Lower Miller's Dale Lava 283-4, 284, 286, 289-92, 293-6, 297 Lugar GCR site 10, 12, 195-202, 196, 197, 199, 200 Lugar Sill 7, 8, 167, 180, 182, 190, 195-202, 196 alteration 200, 201 aplitic veins 198, 199-200 borehole sections 196, 199 late differentiates 204 magma pulses 196, 201-2 major and trace elements 200 mineralogical variation 199-200 radiometric dating 14, 182, 196 segregation 'lugarite' veins 188, 193-5, 197, 204 whole-rock chemistry 200-1 Lyoncross Limestone 244 Machrihanish Coast and South Kintyre Black Hill 101, 103 GCR site 11, 14, 42, 99-104, 100, 102 Machrihanish coast section 101 minor intrusions 101, 102 Skerry Fell Fad 101-3, 102 trachyte lava dome 14, 103-4

Magma chambers 24, 25, 28, 33, 54-5, 59-60, 63, 121-2, 135 compositionally zoned 73, 98-9, 135, 201, 292 differentiation 33, 180, 201-2, 292 heat source to drive convection 229 Magma genesis and evolution 3-6, 8, 22-8, 29, 185 asthenospheric origin 23, 26-7, 34 'basic granulites' 31 compositional change through eruption 98-9 differentiation 73, 134-5, 195 Dinantian magmas 22-5 fractional crystallization 24-7, 31, 33-4, 54-5, 98-9, 119-20, 121-2, 134-5, 209 magmatic underplating 24, 31, 32 partial melting of mantle material 4, 23, 25, 26-7, 30, 31, 33, 112, 119, 169, 299 Silesian and Early Permian magmas 26-7 spatial variations in isotope ratios 23 subsurface intrusions 165 tholeiitic magmas (Stephanian) 27-8 within-plate magmatism 22, 281 Magma-coal (lignite) interaction 175, 179 Magma-wet sediment interaction 8, 77, 108, 175, 284, 301, 305 load structures 77, 149 palagonite 288-9 peperite 175 see also Phreatomagmatic events and deposits Magmatic lineages 23 Magnetometry 8-9, 63, 206, 208, 255, 256-7, 262, 270, 273-4, 313 Mantle heterogeneity 22-4, 25, 26, 27, 28-30

Mantle melting 17, 19-20, 22-3, 27, 55, 112, 211, 299 partial melting 4, 23, 25, 26-7, 30, 31, 33, 112, 119, 169, 299 Mantle plumes 21, 22, 27 Mauchline Basin 21-2, 153-4, 166-7, 169, 170, 171, 211 Mauchline Sandstone Formation 154, 166, 167, 168, 169, 182-3 Mauchline Volcanic Formation 5, 22, 26-8, 153-4, 166-9, 168, 172, 182, 195 lavas 154, 167, 169, 182 lithologies 167 minor intrusions within 169 palaeoenvironment 168 Megacrysts 33-4, 55, 108, 152, 163, 313-16 augite 33, 312-13 biotite 210, 212, 312-13, 315 clinopyroxene 314, 315 pyrope garnets ('Elie rubies') 33, 159, 163, 165 Mell Fell Conglomerate 119, 122, 123, 125 Melmerby Scar Limestone 228, 250, 252 Middle Border Group 115, 138, 139, 140 Middle Hope GCR site 13, 14, 305-9, 306, 307, 308 Middle Hope Volcanic Beds 5, 305-9, 307, 309 biostratigraphy 306, 307 marine shelf deposition 307-9 sedimentary log 307 Midland Valley Sill-complex 9, 15, 27, 185, 189-90, 217, 222-6, 223, 230-49 associated dykes 220, 222-5, 243, 244, 246 differentiation 222 emplacement 220, 221 fault risers 233, 235, 236 hydrocarbon deposits 225 mineralization 225-6 palaeomagnetic survey 220 pegmatite veins and patches 233 pegmatitic zone 222, 231-2,

234, 236

radiometric dating 185 relationship between dyke emplacement, faulting and mineralization 225 transgressions 225, 232-3, 235, 236, 237, 240-1, 244, 246 Midlothian Basin 180 **Minor** intrusions breccia-filled pipes (tuffpipes) 115-16, 153 chronostratigraphical distribution 3 composite 115-16, 133-5 relationships with sedimentation 8 xenoliths 28, 33-4, 156 see also Laccoliths; Necks; Plugs, Sills Miospore zonation 39, 56-7, 74, 117, 119, 138, 150, 301 Misty Law Trachytic Centre 42, 45, 56 Mollinsburn Cuttings GCR site 12, 14, 244-6, 245 Monsal Dale Limestones 286, 287, 288, 297 biostratigraphical dating 297 Mugearite lavas 37, 42, 44, 46, 80, 81, 101, 103-4, 114, 115, 128, 142 Arthur's Seat Volcanic Formation 43, 66-7, 69, 73 Clyde Plateau Volcanic Formation 84, 89, 95, 95-9, 100 Garleton Hills 56, 58 North Berwick Coast 52, 53, 54 see also Rock-types, mugearite Murrayshall Limestone 234 Necks 9, 26, 28, 44-6, 113, 115-16, 158, 164 composite (Coalyard Hill) 159 - 1East Fife necks see East Fife Coast necks River Esk 143-4

structural features 159

xenoliths/xenocrysts 28, 156, 161, 162

Necks (named) Ardross 159, 163, 223 Chapel Ness 162 Coalyard Hill 159-61, 160, 163 Craigforth 158, 162 Davie's Rock 159-61, 163 Dovecot 159-61 Duncansby Ness 31, 155 Elie Harbour 159, 163 Elie Ness 31, 33, 159, 160, 163, 165 Heads of Ayr 104, 107-8 Howgill Hill 128 Kincraig 162, 162, 163 Largo Law 152 Lomond Hills 236, 240-1 Lundin Links 152, 162, 163 Misty Law Trachytic Centre 42, 56 Newark 159-61 Rires 152 Ruddons Point 162, 163, 165 St Monance 152, 159-61, 161, 223 Stob a'Ghrianain 155 Strait Hill-Cooms Fell 128 Viewforth 152, 162 Wadeslea 159 see also East Fife Coast necks Neptunists 6, 65 North Berwick Coast GCR site 10, 11, 14, 28-9, 29, 31, 41-3, 47-55, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 59, 63-4 North Berwick Member 47, 51, 57, 58 North Queensferry Road Cuttings GCR site 12, 14, 230-2, 230, 231 Northern Pennine Orefield 229 Northumberland Basin 19, 24-5, 113, 119, 129-30, 135, 138, 140, 142, 224, 228, 249, 254 Northumberland, Solway and Tweed basins (Dinantian) 111-43 basin development 129-30, 132, 135, 139, 140, 141, 143 lithospheric stretching 112

syn-extensional volcanism 115, 141 volcanic stratigraphy 112 see also Birrenswark Volcanic Formation; individually named basins Oakshaw Tuff 115, 142 Ochil Fault 41, 46, 181, 223, 225-6, 241 direction of hade 243-4 fault-intrusion, quartzdolerite 241, 242, 243 recent seismic activity 241, 243 Ochil Volcanic Formation 241, 247 **Orchard Limestone 244** Orton Group 252 Oxford Limestone 255, 263 Palaeobotany 14, 55, 141 dating 115 Palaeomagnetic studies 9, 153, 166, 167, 182, 184, 220, 270, 273 Palaeosols 41-2, 80, 83, 88, 95, 101, 114, 119, 127, 129-30, 149-51, 194-5, 299-301 Pangaea 3, 15, 17 Passage Formation 149, 151, 152, 154, 162, 180, 191, 196, 244 Pathhead Formation 39, 74, 155, 163, 237-9 Pennine Province 16, 17-18, 19-20 Pentland Hills 19 Phreatomagmatic events and deposits 8, 43, 44, 72, 107-8, 124, 149, 155, 175, 239-41, 300, 305 East Fife 153, 155, 164-5 eastern Midland Valley 41, 147 flow-foot breccia 288-9 Miller's Dale lavas 284 submarine flows 311-12 tuff-ring formation 54-5, 153, 165, 298 volcaniclastic breccias 240, 285-6, 305 see also Magma-wet sediment interaction

Pillow lavas 43, 75, 77-8, 152, 284, 307-8, 309-12, 311 Plant assemblages 14, 48, 50, 53, 54, 57, 68, 73, 74, 151, 171 conifers 14, 302, 303, 304-5 East Kirkton Limestone 149 fossil trees 77, 151, 190 Mauchline Volcanic Formation 153, 166, 169 Plugs 41, 46, 153 Arthur's Seat Volcano 43, 60, 64, 71-3, 84 Bass Rock 43, 46, 47, 50, 59, 63, 64 Campsie Fells 42, 85, 89-90 Castle Rock (Edinburgh) 43, 67.72-3 Duddingston 70, 73 Dumfoyne 85, 89-90 Dumgoyne 41, 85, 89-90 Dumbarton Rock 46, 91-4, 92,94 East Fife Coast 152, 158-9 Hareheugh Craigs 132-5, 134 Highlands 155 Howgill Sike 128, 130 Lomond Hills 236, 238, 239-41 **Ruddons Point 162** Skerry Fell Fad 102 Southdean 153 Port Edgar Ash 44 Pyroclastic rocks 37, 41, 42-3, 46, 74, 76-7, 94, 106-8 agglomerates 50, 58, 90, 157, 159-61, 161, 167, 281, 296-8, 301, 304-5, 310-13 ash-fall tuffs 20, 41-2, 48, 53, 59, 72-3, 77, 85, 108, 149, 152, 285, 305 basaltic 43, 113, 115, 164 basaltic tuffs 44, 47, 52, 69, 128, 157, 159-61 base-surge deposits 41, 107-8, 153, 164, 305 bentonites 20, 284-5, 287-8, 316 breccias 48, 50, 53, 58, 69-72, 70, 77, 102, 116, 128, 130, 157, 159-61, 165, 167, 303-4, 305

clasts basalt 50, 69, 70, 106-7, 142, 154, 157, 167, 171, 175, 303, 307 basanite 48, 157 deep-seated igneous material 29, 152, 163 lherzolite 106 mafic and ultramafic rocks 163 olivine-dolerite 154 peridotite 29 sedimentary rocks 106, 157, 159, 161, 164, 167, 303, 305, 307 tuffisitic 161 tuffs 106, 157 wood fragments 51, 106-7, 153, 157, 159, 164, 303 see also Megacrysts; Xenoliths **Glencartholm Volcanic Beds** 141 lapilli-tuffs 42, 77, 123-5, 124, 143, 161, 284, 291, 297, 303, 305-7 bedded 59, 106, 307-8, 308 unbedded 114, 123-5, 161 lava bombs 48, 50-1, 52, 54, 76, 83, 108, 158-9, 160, 164, 297 preceding caldera collapse 55 trachyte tuffs 42, 47, 52, 53, 55, 58, 115 tuff-breccia 106, 291 tuff-cones 284, 292, 293, 304 tuffisite veins/dykes 158-61, 160, 165, 175, 303-5, 304 tuffites 47, 48, 50-4 tuffs 47, 51, 59, 66-8, 72, 106-7, 141-3, 150, 152, 157, 159-61, 160, 161, 167, 169, 285, 296, 306-7, 311 bedded 41, 48, 51, 89, 106, 115, 152, 157, 159 unbedded 114, 123-5, 161, 164 xenoliths/xenocrysts 159 see also Volcaniclastic deposits

Quartz-dolerite dykes 184, 217, 221, 222, 223, 245, 245, 246-8, 270, 271, 273-4 Arthur's Seat Volcano 67, 73 Great Whin Sill-complex, associated with 226-7, 269-77 intrusion along fault planes 225, 229, 241-4, 242, 259 Midland Valley Sill-complex, associated with 222-3, 244 mineralization 225, 229 see also Dykes Radiometric dating 3, 5, 8-9, 14, 184 Arthur's Seat lavas 39 Barrow Hill dolerite 303 Birrenswark Volcanic Formation 114 Calton Hill basanite (Derbyshire) 297, 299 **Campsie Fells vents 85** Castle Craigs Sill 190-1 Clee Hills Sill 299, 301 Clyde Plateau Volcanic Formation 46, 95 Dalmahoy Sill 225 **Derbyshire Dome 281** Dinantian volcanic rocks 39 Dumbarton Rock 91, 93-5 Duncansby Ness Neck 155 East Fife necks 152, 163, 164 East Lothian 39, 153 east Midland Valley alkaline sills 180 Eildon Hills trachyte 116 Fidra basanite 55 Garleton Hills Volcanic Formation 57 Glasgow-Paisley sillcomplexes 183 Golden Hill megacrysts 315 Great Whin Sill pegmatites 251, 254, 273 Gribun Dyke 32 Holy Island Dyke 270, 274 K-Ar decay constants 6 Kilchatten and Riasg Buidhe dykes 211 Larne, Northern Ireland 154 Lennoxtown plug 183, 184 Lower Miller's Dale Lava 295

Lugar Sill 14, 182, 196, 201 Mauchline Volcanic Formation 153, 166 Midland Valley Sill-complex 223 Mons Hill Sill 185 North Berwick Law phonolitic intrusions 39 **Ochil Fault-intrusion 243** Prestwick-Mauchline Sillcomplex 167 Rathlin Basin 155 Tideswell Dale Sill 293, 295 Traprain Law phonolitic intrusions 39, 54, 60-1 **Troon Volcanic Member 150** Water Swallows Sill 289, 291 - 2West Midlands sills 285 Whin Sill-complex 220 Rare-earth elements 31, 34 Rathlin Basin 21, 155 **Regionally Important** Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) 14 Rhinns Complex (Islay) 32 Ring-fractures 153, 157-8, 159, 164 River Esk, Glencartholm GCR site 11, 14, 141-3, 141 **Robinson Limestone 252 Rockall Trough 21 Rock-types** analcimite olivine analcimite 152, 154, 168, 179 andesite 118, 120, 241 basaltic andesite 247 tholeiitic andesite 25, 113, 117, 120-2, 121, 249 basalt 6, 17, 27, 42, 43, 46, 47, 52, 54, 59, 69, 70, 71, 72-3, 76, 76, 81, 83-4, 86, 89-94, 104, 113, 114-15, 116-19, 122-3, 128, 130, 137, 158-9, 162, 179, 184, 196, 217, 220-1, 285, 299, 303, 304-5 alkali basalt 31, 33, 37, 54, 68, 69, 74, 80, 88, 91-4, 95, 98, 104, 114, 134, 149, 152, 165, 167, 171, 178, 182, 194, 303, 309-10

analcime-basalt 106, 303 olivine basalt 27, 43, 51, 54, 59, 64-5, 67, 67, 68, 69, 74-8, 81, 82-3, 88, 91-4, 92, 95, 98, 101, 102, 104, 114, 126-7, 128, 134, 139, 147, 149, 152, 162, 171-2, 181, 191, 223, 283, 285, 298, 303, 309-10 olivine-clinopyroxenephyric basalt 43, 44, 45, 48, 74, 101, 102, 103, 106-7, 128, 132, 142 olivine-clinopyroxeneplagioclase-phyric basalt 58, 70, 72-3, 128, 140, 142 olivine-phyric basalt 43, 82-3, 101, 102, 113, 114, 120, 125, 126, 127, 135, 139, 147, 150, 153, 154, 167, 171, 180, 283, 285 olivine-plagioclase-phyric basalt 80, 83 plagioclase-phyric basalt 44, 58, 81-3, 84, 89, 90, 132 tholeiitic basalt 22, 25, 58, 99, 102, 104, 106, 113, 114, 118, 120, 122-3, 128-9, 132, 244, 247-8, 248, 275, 292, 299 tholeiitic olivine-phyric basalt 120, 125, 135 basanite 26-9, 31, 33, 50-3, 51, 55, 73, 106, 147, 149-50, 152-4, 158-9, 161, 162, 167, 169, 178, 179, 180, 182, 184, 223, 236, 238, 240, 285, 296, 297-9 analcime basanite 167, 181, 190, 297 leucite basanite 48 nepheline basanite 153, 161, 167, 181, 240 benmoreite 6, 56, 71, 99, 101, 103-4 camptonite 154, 155, 179, 184

dolerite 6, 20, 27, 47, 81, 128, 158-9, 178, 182, 183, 202, 204, 290, 291, 293, 301, 302-5 alkali dolerite 15, 102, 154, 169, 175, 180-1, 182, 183, 184, 185, 193, 195, 209, 236, 238, 239, 240, 285 analcime-dolerite 71, 72, 167, 179, 180-1, 182-8, 190, 193-5, 196-202 biotite analcimedolerite 193, 194-5 nepheline-dolerite 179, 182, 183, 184, 187, 188, 196-202, 197, 203, 205 kaersutite nephelinedolerite ('lugarite') 196-202, 198 olivine-dolerite 62, 102, 103, 106, 124, 134, 167, 179, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 205, 239-41, 243, 284-5, 289-90, 293, 299-301, 301 olivine-phyric dolerite 125, 195, 227 tholeiitic dolerite 6 quartz-dolerite 124, 180, 181, 185-6, 187, 189-90, 221-3, 225, 226, 230-43, 231, 234, 235, 239, 242, 244, 250-63, 251, 261, 265, 270, 271, 273-4 tholeiitic olivine-phyric dolerite 125 felsic rocks 42, 115-16 foidite 3, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 153, 178, 179, 182, 183, 184 gabbro 178, 204 analcime-gabbro 187-8, 285 nepheline-gabbro 184 kaersutite nephelinegabbro 198 hawaiite 6, 22, 24, 25, 27, 37, 43, 59, 71, 86, 90-1, 98, 99, 101, 103, 114-15, 132-5, 134, 140, 142, 167, 285

basaltic hawaiite 24, 27, 80, 81, 88, 114-15, 130-2, 132-5, 140, 167, 285 lamprophyre 3, 29 alkaline lamprophyre 47, 178, 179, 183, 184, 211 calc-alkaline lamprophyre 185 microgranite riebeckite microgranite 116 microsyenite albite-phyric microsyenite 102 monchiquite 31, 154, 155, 161, 161, 168, 179, 184, 211, 285, 312-13, 314 analcime monchiquite 211, 212 monzogabbro analcime-monzogabbro 181 nepheline-monzogabbro 179, 183, 184 mugearite 6, 24, 25, 27, 90-1, 130 nephelinite olivine nephelinite 30, 152, 153, 167, 179 nephelinolite 196-202, 198 peridotite 196, 205 phonolite 39, 43, 46, 54, 59-64, 89 analcime phonolite 62, 64 riebeckite-aegirine phonolite 116 picrite 24, 181, 182, 190, 193-5, 196-201, 197, 205 picrodolerite 202-5 rhyolite 6, 24, 37, 42, 46, 56, 89 tholeiitic affinities 6, 9, 14, 15, 21, 22, 27-8, 147, 149, 175, 185, 206, 217, 230-2, 285 trachyandesite 46, 95, 101-2 augite-phyric trachyandesite 58 trachybasalt 44, 52, 58, 59, 80, 81, 83-4, 89 analcime trachybasalt 43, 54, 58, 59, 63, 89

hornblende trachybasalt 58, 59, 63 trachyte 6, 14, 24, 39, 42–4, 46–7, 53–6, 57, 58–9, 95, 99, 101–4, *102* aegirine trachyte 116 phonolitic trachyte 6, 24, 43, 44, 46, 47, 50, 59, 63, 64, 89–90 quartz-trachyte 58, 59, 64, 89, 116

Saline Hills 149-50 Salsburgh Volcanic Formation 44 Sandy Craig Formation 39, 74 Sanguhar Basin 19, 153-4, 166, 169, 170, 184, 211 Scarlett Volcanic Formation 113 Seafield-Deans Ash 44 Segregation veins 167, 185, 222, 230-2, 235, 236, 242, 243, 249, 254, 259-60, 262 Shelloch Burn Member 83 Shield volcanoes 42, 84-5 Shotto Wood Limestone 255 Sills 27, 180, 182 composite intrusions 73, 180, 182, 190, 194-5, 196-202 emplacement in developing basins 175, 178 layering 10, 72 in-situ differentiation 73, 180, 182, 201, 236 outcrop distribution central and southern Scotland 176 Midland Valley 218 north-east England 176, 219 partial melting of host rocks 236 peperitic textures 175 phreatic emplacement 285 thermal metamorphism 204, 225, 231, 232, 238, 241 see also Dykes; Minor intrusions; Plugs; Sill-complexes Sills (named) Benbeoch 180, 182, 202-5, 202, 203, 204, 204-5 **Binny Craig 225** Braefoot Outer 180, 181

Cairnfold-Dollar-Tillicoultry 181 Castle Craigs 190-1, 194, 195 Clee Hills 299 Craigluscar-Cluny-**Glenrothes** 181 Crombie-Cairneyhill-Bellknowes 181 Dasses 65, 71, 73 Downie's Loup 81 Dunnygask-Steelend 181 Fidra 31 Fordell 181 Girnal Crag 71, 73 Hairy Craig 43, 62, 63 Heriot Mount-St Leonard's 65, 71, 73 Hillhouse 182 Hosie 183 Hound Point 185, 186, 187, 188, 189-90 Hurlet 183 Inner Nebbock 190, 193-4, 195 Lugar see Lugar Sill Mons Hill 181, 185, 186-90 Oakley-Kinneddar-Parklands 181 Parkhill-Cowdenbeath-**Kinglassie** 181 Primrose Bank 48 Raith-Galliston 181 Salisbury Craigs 6, 65, 68, 69, 71-2, 71, 73, 181 Saltcoats Main 180, 190, 191-2, 192, 194-5 Skiddaw 81 Stirling 217, 223, 233-4, 236 Townhill-Kingseat 181 Valleyfield-Kinneil 181 Water Swallows 289-92, 289 Whinny Hill 71 Sill-complexes East Fife 181 Glasgow-Paisley area 183 Prestwick-Mauchline 167 quartz-dolerites 221, 230-2, 231, 233-41, 239 relationship to volcanic necks 175, 178 segregation veins 222, 230-2, 235, 236, 242-3, 249, 254, 259-60, 262-3

tholeiitic affinities 8, 27, 175 west and central Fife 178, 181 see also Midland Valley Sillcomplex; Whin Sillcomplex Single Post Limestone 252 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) 10 Skelfhill Pen intrusion 116 Skiddaw Group 123 Skiddaw Member 82-3 Slackgun Interbasaltic Member 81, 83 Solway Basin 19, 22, 24-6, 112-13, 117, 119, 122, 125, 129-30, 134, 140, 142 South Queensferry to Hound Point GCR site 12, 15, 185-90, 186, 187, 189 Southern Uplands 32, 184 Spinel lherzolite 22, 26, 29, 54, 104, 109, 161, 163, 212, 296 Spout of Ballochleam Member 82-3, 84 Spring Cove GCR site 5, 13, 14, 309-12, 310, 311 Spring Cove Lava 309–10 autometasomatism 311 blocks of enclosed limestone 310, 311-12 pillows 307, 309-12, 311 pumice fragments 311 red oolitic limestone 311-12 relationship with underlying limestone 310-12 Station Quarry Beds 286, 288 Steel Rigg to Sewingshields Crags GCR site 13, 15, 254-7, 255, 256 Stephanian tholeiitic event 3, 33, 217-30, 249 Stephanian-Permian boundary 3 Stonefield Schists 101 Strathclyde Group 44, 56, 60, 74, 95, 99, 185, 231, 237 Stratheden Group 39 Strathgryfe Lava Member 94-5, 99 Stronend Interbasaltic Beds 83

**Taddington Anticline 288** Tectonic setting and evolution 15-22 back-arc extension 3, 15, 18, 285 basin development 16-20, 21 - 2Dinantian 16-18 End-Carboniferous to Permian 21-2 Europe 18, 18, 20 intracontinental rifting 3, 18, 21 Midland Valley 169, 243 Namurian 18-19 north-south extension 21, 65, 169, 172, 225, 285 rifting followed by thermal subsidence 19-20 Stephanian 21-2 tectonic inversion 20, 227 Westphalian 19-21 Thermal metamorphism of host rocks 225, 231-2, 236, 238-41, 249, 254, 256, 257-60, 266 coal 179, 193 coal rank enhancement 178, 203, 229, 243 limestone 228, 240, 250, 252, 254, 256, 257, 260, 268, 272, 293-4, 295 mudstones 193, 239, 240, 250, 252, 260, 272 sandstone 239, 260, 262 sill emplacement 225 xenoliths 262, 263, 272 Thermal subsidence 19-20, 227 Thornhill Basin 19, 21, 153-4, 166, 169, 170-1, 172, 211 palaeoenvironment 171 **Thornhill Sandstone** Formation 171-2 Three Yard Limestone 267-9, 268-9 Tideswell Dale GCR site 13, 293-6, 293, 294 Tideswell Dale Sill 293-6, 293, 294 hydrothermal alteration 295 red clay with prismatic jointing 294, 294, 295 transgression 293 **Tormentil Volcanics 154** 

Touch, Fintry and Gargunnock Hills GCR site 11, 14, 42, 44, 77-85, 78, 79, 82 **Touch House Member 84** Trace elements 26-7, 34, 103, 118-19, 169, 201, 248, 291, 295 Traprain Law GCR site 11, 43, 60-4, 60 Traprain Law phonolitic laccolith 43, 59-64, 61 analcime phonolite 62, 64 geomagnetic surveys 63 heterogeneity 62 jointing 62 laccolithic form 63-4 mineral assemblage 62 xenoliths 62, 63 Troon Volcanic Member 5, 26, 27, 150, 169, 182, 190, 191, 194-5 isopachs 150, 151 Tuff-rings 10, 41, 48, 54-5, 107, 153, 158, 164, 165, 298 Tweed Basin 19, 22, 24-5, 26, 111, 112, 114, 130, 132, 133, 134 Tyne Bottom Limestone 250, 251, 252 Upper Border Group 115, 141 - 2**Upper Limestone Formation** 150, 152, 180, 243, 244 Upper Miller's Dale Lava 283-4, 284, 285-9, 287, 291, 294-6, 297-9 flow-front 285-6, 287-9 stratigraphical section 286 Upper Old Red Sandstone 114, 126, 129, 131-2, 300 Variscan Front 15, 18, 19-20, 111, 281, 285 Variscan Orogeny 15, 20-1, 73 Vent agglomerates 50, 51, 89, 90, 102, 281, 285, 301, 303, 304-5, 312-15 Vent intrusions 69-70, 70, 89-90, 93 Vents Barrow Hill 303, 305 Calton Hill (Derbyshire) 288, 292, 298

Campsie Fells 42, 85, 89-91 Cockermouth Lavas 119 Crags (Western) 69, 72, 73 Dumbarton Rock 91-3 Dumfoyne 86, 89-90 Dumgoyne 86, 89-90 Fife 152 Gin Head 50, 55, 153 Golden Hill Quarry 312, 315 Heads of Ayr 104-5, 105, 106-8 Highlands 155 Horseshoe 51, 54 Kelso Lavas 132 Lecks 51, 52 Lion's Haunch 43, 68, 69-71, 70, 71-3 Lion's Head 43, 69, 71, 72-3 Little Mell Fell 124-5, 124 North Berwick Coast 41, 47-8, 50-4, 50 Partan Craig 31, 32, 51, 54 Pulpit Rock 68, 72 Quarrel Sands 53, 54 Red and Green groups 54, 55 Scoughall 48 Skerry Fell Fad 102 Tantallon 50, 50 Weaklaw 29, 42, 53 Yellow Craig Plantation 52, 54, 153 Yellow Man 51, 51, 54, 55, 153 Volcanic centres **Burntisland 39** Miller's Dale Centre 281 Misty Law Trachytic Centre 42, 46, 56 Waterhead Central Volcanic Complex 42, 44-5, 84, 90 Volcanic necks see Necks Volcanic plugs see Plugs Volcanic vents see Vents Volcaniclastic deposits 43, 47, 54, 59, 74, 80, 149, 167, 304-5 Arthur's Seat Volcano 68-9, 72 Barrow Hill Complex 301-5 breccias 48, 301-3, 305 **Campsie Fells 86** Clyde Plateau 37, 39

**Glencartholm Volcanic Beds** 115 Heads of Ayr 104-8 influence on coal seam development 149 Kelso Lavas 131-2 North Berwick Coast 48 plant remains 48, 50, 68, 73 River Esk 142-3 Saline Hills 150 Slackgun Interbasaltic Member 83 **Tormentil Volcanics 154** weathering detritus 101 see also Pyroclastic rocks Volcanism 3 lithostretching 22-3 relationship with sedimentation 8, 14 submarine 18 two-cycle 26 within-plate extensionrelated 26 see also Eruption styles; Lavas Volcanoes Arthur's Seat 42, 72 Bathgate Hills 150 Campsie Fells 85, 91 Dumbarton Rock 93, 94 East Fife Coast 164 Heads of Ayr 42, 104, 106-8 Little Mell Fell 122 Miller's Dale Centre 281 North Berwick Coast 42, 47, 55, 59 shield volcanoes 42, 84-5 Waterhead Central Volcanic Complex 42, 44, 90 Wallstale GCR site 12, 14, 225, 232-3, 233, 234-6, 234, 235 Water Swallows Quarry GCR site 13, 289-92, 289 hydrothermal alteration 292

mineralization 291, 292 Whinny Hill unlocated vent 292 Water Swallows Sill 289-92, 69 grain-size variation 291, 292, transgression 290 126, 129

Waterhead Central Volcanic Complex 42, 44, 45, 84, 90 hydrothermal alteration 42 Weathering, subaerial see Palaeosols West Lothian oil-shale field 42, 43.47 West Lothian Oil-shale Formation 44, 149, 188, 189 West Midlands 285 Clee Hills Sill 299-301 radiometric dates 285 Whin Sill Exposures in Upper Teesdale GCR site 12, 249-54, 250, 251, 253 Whin Sill-complex 7, 8, 27, 124, 217, 226-30 associated dykes 226-7, 269-77, 276 subswarms 227, 276-7 emplacement 27, 220, 221 extent 227 Holy Island quartz-dolerite intrusion 269-77 intrusive characters 256, 257-9, 268 later intrusions of basaltic magma 220, 259, 262-3 magnetic surveys 8, 9, 255, 256-7, 262 metamorphic effects 228-9 mineralization 229, 249, 252, 254, 263 multiple leaves 229 palaomagnetic survey 220 radiometric dating 14, 227 similarities with Midland Valley Sill-complex 217, 220, 221 transgressions 224, 228, 254, 256-7 step-and-stair transgressions 227 see also Great Whin Sill; Little Whin Sill hydrothermal alteration lavas and tuffs 64-5, 67-9, 70, 72-3 Whita Sandstone Formation

373

290

295

White trap/whin 158, 178–9, 184–5, 188–90, 189, 192, 193–5, 222, 229, 273
Midland Valley Sill-complex 225, 244
Whin Sill-complex 229, 249, 252, 254
Wydon GCR site 13, 275–7, 275

Xenocrysts 33-4 almadine-pyrope garnets 32 clinopyroxene 27, 29 quartz 72, 104 sanidine 58 see also Megacrysts; Xenoliths Xenoliths cognate (autoliths) 28 crustal sources 31-3, 48, 51, 53, 55, 155, 165, 184, 312, 315-16 cumulates 31, 163 distribution 161 host magmas 28 local derivation 33 localities of occurrence 28 megacrysts 33-4, 154, 156, 159, 161, 163, 165, 185 sources upper crust 33, 48, 53 middle crust 32-3, 48, 51, 53

lower crust 28, 29, 31-2, 48, 51, 53, 55, 155, 165, 185, 212 upper mantle 9, 22-3, 28-31, 48, 53-5, 104, 154-6, 165, 184-5, 296-9, 315-16 Xenoliths (constituents) 9, 28-34, 48, 51-5, 92-3, 303-4 anorthosite 32 composite wehrlitelherzolite 30, 163 dunite 93 feldspathic 33 glimmerite 210, 212 gneiss 30, 53 mafic gneiss 32 quartzo-feldspathic gneiss 32 granite 52 harzburgite 297, 315 spinel harzburgite 29, 296 lherzolite 29, 30, 128, 297, 298, 315 garnet lherzolite 22, 23, 26, 33-4, 55 spinel lherzolite 26, 29, 53-4, 109, 163, 210, 213, 297, 315 mantle-derived material 9, 28, 296, 312, 315-16 meta-anorthosite 31

meta-quartz-diorite 31 metadiorite 31 metagabbro 31 metamorphic rocks 152, 163, 211, 212 metatonalite 31 peridotite 29, 29, 30-1, 53-4, 116, 297, 315 pyroxenite 29-31, 30, 33, 161, 163, 212, 212 biotite pyroxenite 31, 163, 312 clinopyroxenite 29, 31, 54 garnet pyroxenite 29, 163 kaersutite pyroxenite 31, 33, 210 olivine pyroxenite 210, 212 sedimentary rocks 92-4, 313 syenitic (anorthoclasites) 34, 165 trachybasalt, analcimehornblende trachybasalt 63 ultramafic rocks 29-30, 54, 108, 210, 297, 312-15 websterite 29, 163 wehrlite 29, 31, 54, 161, 163, 210, 212

Yoredale Series 250