

The Blair Atholl limestone has an important development in the neighbourhood of Blair Atholl, and up the valley of the Tilt towards the limit of the basin. Sharing in all the folds of the associated phyllites and black schists (group 9), its outcrop is irregular and involved. Where these zones appear, in the Tilt, in the Tay, and Strath Tummel, they generally give rise to softer outlines than the quartzite which apparently overlies them.

The Perthshire quartzite (group 11) is, perhaps, the most striking geological sub-division in the metamorphic series of the Eastern Highlands, from its greater durability and the lofty mountains to which it has given rise. Along its northern margin the rock is more or less coarse-grained, due to the presence of pebbles of quartz and felspar, but this band is repeatedly brought to the surface by means of folding. An interesting feature of this group is the presence of a conglomerate or boulder bed with rounded blocks of granite, foreign to the area, the matrix of which seems to vary with the rock in contact with it. Sometimes appearing as lenticular or boat-shaped masses surrounded by black schists, phyllite, or limestone, and again as narrow belts traceable for several miles, the quartzite is always one of the dominant features of the landscape, occasionally forming lofty peaks, as in Ben-y-Ghlo and Schichallion.

In addition to the sub-divisions of the metamorphic rocks of the Eastern Highlands which have just been described, there is a group of crystalline schists termed the "Moine series" by the Geological Survey, which have a wide distribution in the north-west part of the Tay basin. Their lithological characters are remarkably persistent over wide areas. Consisting mainly of quartzose granulitic schists or fine-grained gneisses with bands of mica-schist, they represent without doubt a highly altered series of sediments, the original clastic grains of which have been destroyed. They form nearly the whole of the area north of Loch Rannoch, up Glen Garry, and northward of Glen Tilt.

Reference has already been made to the intrusive sheets of basic igneous rock which appear in association with the Green Beds and Loch Tay limestone, but others occur in connection with the zones of calcsericite schist and black schist. Perhaps the most remarkable example of the latter is the mass of epidiorite and hornblende-schist on Ben Vrackie north of Pitlochry, where the altered sediments have been deflected and bent round the laccolitic intrusion.

The acid igneous rocks which were injected into the sedimentary series, before the folding and development of schistosity in the latter, are best represented by the foliated granite of Ben Vuroch, north-east of Ben Vrackie. On the north-west slope of that mountain, the sediments, which still retain their original bedding, have undergone contact alteration, the calcareous shales having been converted into calc-silicate hornfels.