

One of the most remarkable geological features of the Loch Maree district is the evidence relating to the topography of the primeval land surface on which the Torridonian sediments were laid down. Between the head of Loch Maree and Strath na Sheallag, where the overlying red sandstone has been partly removed by denudation, it is possible to trace the direction of the old valleys and the orientation of the ancient peaks. On the eastern slope of Ben Slioch, near Glen Fhasaigh, the observer may climb one of these hills, which rises to a height of about 2000 feet in the midst of the Torridon Sandstone, and trace the alternation of breccia and sandstone filling the ancient valley. Similar evidence is obtained further north in the mountainous region near the head of Glen na Muic. Where these deeply-eroded valleys are preserved, breccias of local origin frequently appear at the base of the Torridon Sandstone. In the Loch Maree district this formation has been subdivided into three groups: a lower, consisting of epidotic grits, dark and grey shales, with calcareous bands and red sandstones; a middle, composed of a great thickness of false-bedded grits and sandstones with scattered pebbles; an upper, comprising chocolate-coloured sandstones, micaceous flags, with dark shales and calcareous bands. The members of the lower group are well displayed in the district near Talladale and Slattadale, on the south-west shore of Loch Maree; those of the middle group are typically developed in the mountains round Loch Torridon, from which district this system takes its name, while the upper group appears in the islands north of Gruinard. Throughout this region this formation (*t* on map) reaches a vast thickness, for on the shores of Loch Torridon it rises on Liathach from the sea-level to a height of over 3000 feet. In the mountains between Slioch and An Teallach these sandstones have a gentle dip towards the south-east; in the Torridon district they are nearly horizontal, while further south they form a low arch.

As indicated in our previous notes on the geology of the Assynt district, the Torridon Sandstone is separated from the overlying quartzites by an unconformability, which in some parts of the Loch Maree area is not so prominent as in Assynt. On An Teallach in the Dundonnell forest and southwards towards Mullach Coire Mhic Fhearchair, the Cambrian quartzites are inclined at a higher angle to the south-east than the Torridon Sandstone. In the area lying to the west of the post-Cambrian displacements we find at various localities the normal Cambrian sequence in ascending order—1, the basal quartzites (*a*¹ on map); 2, the pipe-rock (*a*²); 3, the Furoid beds (*a*³). This sequence is displayed in the Dundonnell forest, on the western slope of Ben a' Vuinie near Kinlochewe, on the west declivity of Meall a' Ghuibhais south of Loch Maree, and on Beinn Eighe. Within these limits the Furoid beds have yielded at several localities well-preserved trilobites and other organic remains of Lower Cambrian age. The