

Regarding the lines of displacement in the Conon basin, one of the most important is that just referred to, which skirts the base of the Black Isle, and is prolonged north-east to Tarbat Ness, whereby this straight feature has been determined. The great fault that traverses Loch Maree and Glen Docharty passes south-east by Ledgown, thence across the watershed by Carn Chaorainn to Loch Beannachan in the basin of the Meig. Another powerful dislocation, nearly at right angles to the course of the Loch Maree fault, has determined the north-north-east direction of the Meig valley between Inbhir-Chaorainn and Milton of Strathconon, and stretches south-west up Glen Chaorainn in the direction of Loch Monar, and north-north-east to the head of Loch Luichart.

During the period of extreme glaciation it would appear that the ice-sheet lay some distance to the east of the existing watershed in part of the Conon basin, for boulders of foliated granite or augen gneiss, from one or other of the masses near Inchbae, have been carried westward into the valley of Loch Broom, to Inverlael, and nearly as far as Ullapool. Their distribution in an eastward direction is no less remarkable, for they have been traced as erratics across the Black Isle and the Moray firth to the plain of Moray and the low grounds of Banffshire. The boulder clay of the north part of the Black Isle contains numerous blocks of this well-known rock, which were probably dispersed during the greatest extension of the ice. Such evidence is in harmony with that obtained in the Assynt district, where blocks of the eastern schists have been carried from the plateau of the Moine schists, east of the existing watershed, to higher elevations to the west, formed of Cambrian strata. In view of these facts, it seems probable that during one stage of the glacial period the Conon basin must have been buried under an ice-sheet that overtopped the highest hills, the movement of which was largely independent of the physical features of the region.

During the period of confluent glaciers that ensued, the great mountain groups formed more or less independent centres of dispersion. Indeed, many of the striæ, the disposition of the moraines, and the distribution of the carried blocks furnish evidence relating to this phase of glaciation. In the Fannich mountains—a range running east and west for about 7 miles, and whose main peaks rise above 3000 feet—ice-markings were found on the southern slopes at elevations between 2250 and 2500 feet trending south-south-east. Striæ pointing in a similar direction occur at various points on the ridge between Loch Fannich and Strath Bran, thus showing that at one period the Fannich ice must have crossed that loch into the Bran valley. Again, during this later glaciation, ice crossed the watersheds from Glen Fhiodaig and from Strath Conon into the valley of the Bran, and after uniting with the glaciers from Fannich and the Blackwater, passed eastwards