

NOTES ON SOME SCOTTISH
MINERAL LOCALITIES
visited in July 1957

G. Saville and G. Ryback
New College, Oxford.

505
scot

BATHGATE DISTRICT, LINLITHGOWSHIRE.

13/7/57.

Quarry near Cairnpapple. Gallabraes Limest. qu., 989708

An old quarry 150 yds SSW of the Knock Hill, near Cairnpapple, off the west side of the road.

Brown, very fossiliferous limestone - several strata. In one place very vughiferous, with calcite and dolomite xls associated with a soft black hydrocarbon; also occasional specks of galena and chalcopryrite.

13/7/57.

Bilderstone Mine. → 990715

Two very small overgrown dumps 50 yds east off the road, SE of Cairnpapple. There are larger, barren dumps further east, derived from a large quarry. (Tarttraven Limest. qu.)

On the dumps: baryte and calcite with galena. One or two pieces of rock have a slight deposit of erythrite. Very disappointing.

BREDALEBANE? PERTHSHIRE.

15/7/57.

Creag Mhor.

North-east slopes of Creag Mhor, Glen Lochay. Garnetiferous schists in places. One large piece of massive white quartz with much rutile; long reddish-brown needles penetrating the quartz and associated with flakes of chlorite.

15/7/57.

Corrycharmaig.

A trial ½ ml WSW of Corrycharmaig, north-east slopes of Creag Mhor, Glen Lochay. There is an east-west saddle or shallow corrie, with low crags on the north and south sides. The trial is at the western end of the north~~ward~~ bounding crag, i.e. facing south and easily missed when going up from Corrycharmaig.

A small cave has been blasted out, and a filled-in hole in front of it can be seen, together with a dump of blasted-out material. Massive chromite in patches and strings in a compact fine-grained dark-green rock. The chromite is shiny black, massive, feebly magnetic.

↓
really chromian magnetite,
contains 30% Cr_2O_3 (anal.
GR, 1959).

TYNDRUM, WERTSHIRE

The locality is adequately described in Spec. Rep. Min. Resources 17 (Geological Survey 1921), and references are made here to a map of the veins given there (Fig. 14).

19/7/57.

Beinn Odhar Level.

Exposed sloping metamorphic rocks with numerous veins of quartz, sometimes containing galena and blende. Extensive dumps on sloping ground: quartz with galena and light-brown blende; much iron-staining.

The level goes in about 20 ft, and there is what appears to be a filled-in shaft half way in.

20/7/57.

Crom Allt.

Several exposures of the vein in the stream: quartz with intergrown massive galena + brown blende + some chalcopyrite.

20/7/57.

Main Dumps.

Enormous dumps up the mountain-side. Below there are remains of mills and the slime dumps. Rock is exposed, especially in the upper part, where two of the several levels are open. The uppermost level can be entered easily, continues straight for a long distance, and is roughly of this shape:



Much galena and light-brown blende everywhere on the dump; chalcopyrite less common, whilst alteration products other than iron-staining very scarce. The matrix is quartz, but there is some baryte and calcite on the lower part of the dump.

Two specimens carrying pitchblende were found on the lower part of the dump (just below what looks like new dumps of light-coloured small stuff). The pitchblende forms a black crust on dirty-coloured calcite, and is in part ~~silicified~~ botryoidal and in part "hacked", i.e. formed round ~~minerals~~ a platy mineral which has been almost entirely removed (probably calcite). It is clearly a late introduction into the vein. There are traces of an apparently fibrous yellow ~~mineral~~ non-fluorescent mineral on the surface of the pitchblende; this may be kasolite (see Proceedings Min.Soc. for November 1956).

ARROCHAR, ARGYLLSHIRE

23/7/57.

The Cobbler.

Centre peak, The Cobbler, Arrochar, Argyllshire. Some of the patches of white massive quartz which are very abundant in the schists contain ilmenite. This mineral occurs in very irregular veinlets about $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 mm thick, sometimes smoothly curved. It is steel-grey and non-magnetic, and seems to be associated with fairly coarse flaky chlorite.

Russel, Min. Mag. 24, 307 (1936).

Fluorite from Aberdeenshire and Banffshire.

- (1) Fluorite is rare in Scotland, except from Graiguschat quarry, Gourrock, Renfrewshire.
- (2) Abergairn lead mine, Glen Gairn, Ballater, Aberdeenshire;
= Corrybeg mine of Heddle.

About 1 ml NW of Ballater, opened 1820 to 1830. A.R. got specimens from old dump and from blocks built into a wall.

The vein consists of:

quartz, + pale green steatitic stuff, + schist with pyrit
schieferspar;
bluish-grey-green to purplish blue fluor + small xls
of galena and yellow blende;
very thin ~~layer~~ band of deep violet fluor;
ivory-coloured xline granular orthoclase;
calcite into which slender prisms of orthoclase project.

The bluish-grey-green to greyish-blue fluor exhibits brilliant phosphorescence on heating, first green, then sky-blue, finally violet; the amber-yellow fluor is non-phosphorescent; none is fluorescent.

Pyromorphite & erythrite found in traces. The dolomite recorded in Heddle is probably orthoclase.

- (3) Creag an t-Seabhaig, north side of the Pass of Ballater.
Fluor recorded by Robert Jameson in 1804. = Ballater House of Greg and Lettsom, and "near Monaltrie House and the Pass of Ballater" of Heddle.

Specimens got from very large blocks fallen from a large vein high up on the cliff-like granite face of Creag an t-Seabhaig overlooking the road on the north side of the Pass. Exact position of the vein could not be determined

Crystalline, comby quartz + fluor + included bits of granite. Small spots of galena rarely in fluor. Fluor is banded, with xls in vughs. Remarkably brilliant and persistent phospho-

rescence on heating; fluorescence exceedingly feeble.

- (4) In the wood about 1600 yds a little east of north of Creag an t-Seabhraig, a trial on small galena/fluor-bearing vein. Probably Jameson's actual locality; "Old Lead Mine" on 6-inch map.
- (5) Tonnakiest upper granite quarry, Camus O'May, Ballater. Fluor rarely as thin, finely crystalline deep greyish-lavender crust or minute pale yellowish cubes on joint-faces of pink granite.
- (6) Neill's granite quarry, Rinabaich, Ballater. Vertical joint-faces of fine-grained pink granite are sometimes thickly encrusted with 2-mm dark purple-drab cubes of fluor.

The following are localities given in Heddle:

- (7) Coilacrieach, Ballater. Violet fluor in bed of yellow metamorphic limestone above this place.
A.R. found none.
- (8) Crathie limestone quarry, Creag a Chamhain, Crathie, Aberdeenshire. Fluor rarely as violet xline patches, + garnet and wollastonite. Heddle's specimen in Edinburgh museum.
A.R. found none; the quarry has been abandoned for many years.
- (9) Muir limestone quarry.
- (10) Midstrath limestone quarry,
Aboyne, Aberdeenshire. Similar occurrences.
A.R. found none; both quarries abandoned, the first very overgrown, the second full of water.