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Description of a specimen collected from Flagstaff Gully

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The following petrographic description is of a specimen collected by Inspector Tindal at Stratton's quarry, Flagstaff Gully.

In hand specimen the rock is very fine grained and grey in colour, with a few glassy grains or phenoclasts visible in the aphanitic matrix. The rock is massive and shows no particular cleavage, but two joint planes at right angles to each other show prominently. Fine grained pyrite is present in black dendritic masses.

In thin section the rock is a dense mass of interlocking grains of quartz and feldspar of silt grade grainsize. Some cloudy, white, opaque clayey material is also present, together with prominent opaque dendritic masses of very fine grained pyrite. The larger grains, visible in hand specimen, consist of angular broken crystals of quartz and feldspar, with quartz predominating. The quartz content of the rock is certainly in excess of 50% and because of its fine grain size the rock might be expected to produce much quartz dust on breaking and crushing.

The rock is a siltstone.

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