

Description of a rock specimen from Risdon Brook damsite

by G. B. Everard

The following is a description of a rock specimen collected by Senior Geologist, I. B. Jennings at Risdon Brook damsite.

The specimen is a fine grained, greenish weathered rock with some visible crystals of felspar and ferromagnesian mineral. In thin section the texture is partly ophitic and partly intersertal. Irregular prisms of pyroxene averaging 0.5 mm long are penetrated by narrow laths of felspar of similar length. Small patches of this texture alternate with groups of felspar laths, the interstices between the laths being filled with dark granular material largely glassy. Magnetite is common in rodlike aggregates and small rounded masses.

Weathering has resulted in some staining of the rock by iron oxides; but apart from this pyroxene is almost colourless and the rock is probably low in titania. Satisfactory interference figures could not be obtained from the pyroxenes owing to the small size of the crystals, but the slow ray made the smaller angle with cleavage in longitudinal section. Thus the pyroxene is probably pedgeonite and the rock therefore related to the Jurassic dolerite.

The rock type may therefore be described as a fine grained dolerite.

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