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Description of a sample from DDH S5, Risdon Brook

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The hand specimen, from 122' in hole DDH S5 at Risdon Brook, is a fine grained, dark grey rock of uniform texture, although some larger needles of feldspar approaching 1 mm in length are just visible.

In thin section the rock has a typical intersertal texture consisting of irregular patches of dark glass containing magnetite, microlites and fine needles of feldspar in a network of laths of labradorite and pyroxene in ophitic relationship.

The pyroxene is colourless, length slow with an optic axial angle of 35° to 40°. The maximum extinction angle with the cleavage is about 35°. The mineral is therefore pigeonite and the rock is a tholeiitic basalt derived from a dolerite intrusive.

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