

KR3479: (lithic) vitric crystal tuff; with a sheared and recrystallised extremely fine quartz-sericite matrix

Field note: vitric crystal tuff

Small single crystals of quartz (25-30%), measuring between 0.2 and 2 mm are disseminated, but roughly layered throughout an extremely fine quartz-sericite matrix. These crystals are variably subhedral, embayed, anhedral, broken-angular and splintery, indicating an almost certain tuffaceous derivation. Minor sericitised feldspar crystals are also tentatively identified.

The groundmass consists of somewhat patchy, diffuse microcrystalline quartz, crowded with abundant fine sericite and shredded streaks of sericite. It is interpreted to be a sheared and recrystallised glassy tuffaceous matrix with incorporated, similarly altered glassy fragments.

It is not absolutely certain if this is an original tuff or lava, however it is essentially the same as KR1234 and KR3273 (report no. 2228) in which definite lithic ash and rare lapilli were also identified, thus confirming the tuff genesis (see figs. 4, 15 and 16 in that report.)