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T8632 : metabasalt (amphibolite)

This is a compact dark green rock with features resembling vesicles, and fractures. In thin section it is seen to consist of hornblende (actinolitic), plagioclase, accessory quartz and granular opaques.

The actinolite occurs as elongate replicas of coarse clinopyroxene which measured about 0.1 x 1 mm, and subradiating, branching fibres and prisms after quench clinopyroxene.

Interstitial plagioclase is clouded and in part euhedral against quartz. The quartz grains are up to 0.5 mm across and may be in part, vesicle fillings, together with rare epidote.

Scattered granular opaque mineral (s) reach 0.5 mm, and enclose quartz or amphibole. Some have haloes of epidote and fine granular sphene. These are identified as Fe and/or Ti oxides, also pyrite (under binocular microscope). The fractures visible in the hand specimen are epidote-filled veins about 0.1 mm across.

The texture suggests a magnesian-tholeiite, with a quench texture, as the original rock type.