

T8634 :                   serpentinised dunite, including  
                          broad veins of bowlingite/serpentine  
                          alteration after olivine;  
                          disseminated fine chromite

This is a more complex serpentinite than samples T8630 and T8631 with several serpentine varieties, and minor tremolite and talc.

Initial alteration of the olivine was to a pleochroic green to orange fibrous bowlingite-like mineral. This similar bowlingite replacement appears to have occurred along broad veins, and within each, the bowlingite occurs as anastomosing stringers enclosing residual patches.

Residual olivine was then replaced by fibrous redistinct, colourless serpentine. In places, large patches of parallel-fibrous serpentine and/or decussate to well oriented talc replace large olivines up to 2 x 2 mm.

Fine 'salt and pepper' serpentinite enclosing partly resorbed tremolite grains is also common as a replacement of olivine. The olivine texture is destroyed in vein-like areas of fine fibrous colourless serpentine. Accessory, small (0.2 mm) opaque euhedra, probably chromite, are disseminated. These opaques are less abundant in the broad vein, suggesting that it is in part a fracture-filling vein.

The whole rock is cut by thin (0.03 mm) stringers of cross-fibre talc.