

Introduction

Welcome to Knockan Crag National Nature Reserve, managed by Scottish Natural Heritage.

Step on three billion years of history, bridge 500 million years with your bare hands and dig into deep time. The landscape around Knockan Crag reveals some of the world's oldest rocks as well as evidence of the huge upheavals, collisions and pressures that have shaped the land we call Scotland. You can see the clue that allowed one of the world's greatest geological mysteries to be solved.

Ro-ràdh

Fàilte gu Tèarmann Nàdair Nàiseanta Chreag a' Chnocain, stiùirichte le Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba.

Gabh ceum air trì bìllean bliadhna de dh'eachdraidh, dèan drochaid thar 500 millean bliadhna le do làmhnan agus dèan cladhach dhomhainn ann an tìm. Tha an tìr timcheall Chreag a' Chnocain a' nochdadh cuid dhe na creagan as sine air an t-saoghal, a bharrachd air fianais air atharraichidhean mòra, bualachd agus bruthadh a thugadh cumadh air Alba. Chì thu sanas a chuidich fuasgladh dìomhaireachd mhòr geòlais.

Visitor enjoying the view from Knockan Crag
A' coimhead bho Chreag a' Chnocain



View from the Rock Room
Sealladh bho Sheòmar nan Creag

Travel into deep time

At Knockan Crag you view a landscape so old that it is almost impossible to imagine. Think of the history of the planet as a 24 hour clock. Modern humans first inhabited it at 23:59:59, just one second in deep time.

The crags and glittering pools known as 'cnoc and lochan' expose some of the world's oldest rocks. Bog and heather overlie seabed muds, a billion years old. The bedrock of the mountains is sediment dumped by ancient rivers while the whitish rocks on some summits were formed from sand in tropical seas when Scotland lay south of the Equator. Over millions of years, ice, weather and erosion have shaped the rocks into the landscape you experience today.

Dèan siubhal ann an tìm

Aig Creag a' Chnocain chì thu dealbh-tìre a tha cho sean agus gu bheil e doirbh a chreidsinn. Smaoinich air eachdraidh na planaid mar chloca 24 uairean. Thòisich daoine a' fuireach air a' phlanaid an toiseach aig 23:59:59, dìreach aon tiotan ann an tìm.

Chithear cuid dhe na creagan as sine air an t-saoghal air na cnuc agus anns na lochan. Air uachdar eabair bho ghrunnnd na mara tha boglach agus fraoch. 'S e grùid bho sheann aibhnichean a tha san fho-chreig. Chaidh na creagan geala air cuid dhe na mullaich a chruthachadh bho ghainmheach ann an cuantan tropaigeach nuair a bha Alba na laighe deas air a' Chrìos-meadhain. Thar milleanan bhliadhnaichean, thug deigh, side agus caitheamh an cruth dha na creagan a chì thu an-diugh.

Up close and puzzling

At the Puzzle Wall layers of rock reveal one of Earth's great upheavals. The bottom layers show traces of marine creatures which lived beside tropical seas. Above is a layer of lime rich mud. On top is the puzzling layer, laid down nearly half a billion years earlier, when Scotland was part of the same continent as North America. The closing of a huge ocean led to the collision of two continents and the birth of the landmass that is present-day Britain. The force of the collision thrust up these older rocks to make them top of the pile.

Ceist a' chnuic

Aig Balla na Ceist tha fillidhean chreagan a' nochdadh atharrachadh mòr a thàinig air an Talamh. Tha na fillidhean ìosal a' nochdadh comharran chreutairean mara a bha beò ri taobh cuantan tropaigeach. Gu h-àrd tha fillidhean eabair a tha làn aoil. Air uachdar tha fillidhean a tha na cheist agus a chaidh a chur sìos faisg air leth bìllean bliadhna roimhe sin nuair a bha Alba mar phàirt dhen aon mhòr-roinn ri Ameireaga a Tuath. Nuair a dhùin cuan mòr, farsaing, bhualid dà mhòr-roinn na chèile agus thàinig Breatainn gu bith. Chaidh na creagan sin, a bha na bu shine, a shadail suas chun a' mhullaich le forsa a' bhualaidh.

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Reading the riddle of the rocks

After years of debate, two brilliant geologists solved the puzzle of how older rocks can lie on top of younger rocks. By mapping the folds, thrusts and contours of the landscape here in 1882, they discovered that Earth's enormous forces could move rocks sideways. The older rocks had been pushed up and over younger rocks in a process called thrust. At the Rock Room, you can meet those remarkable geologists, Peach and Horne, discover how continents collided and try out your skills as a rock detective.

Tòimhseachan nan creagan

An dèidh iomadh bliadhna de dheasbad, fhuair dìthis gheòlaichean ainmeil fuasgladh air mar as urrainn creagan nas sine a bhith air uachdar chreagan nas òige. Le bhith a' mapadh phasgaidhean, sàthaidhean agus àirde na deilbh-tìre an seo ann an 1882, fhuair iad a-mach gun urrainn forsaichean cumhachdach na Talmhainn creagan a ghluasad gu aon taobh. Chaidh na creagan bu shine a phutadh suas agus thairis air creagan nas òige ann am pròiseas ris an canar sàthadh. Ann an Seòmar nan Creag, gheibh thu eòlas air na geòlaichean mìorbhaileach sin, Peach agus Horne, gheibh thu a-mach mar a bhualid mòr-roinnean na chèile agus faodaidh tu feuchainn dè cho eòlach 's a tha thu air creagan.



Sculptures of Geologists Peach & Horne by Alan Herriot
Ìomhaighean de na Geòlaichean Peach & Horne le Alan Herriot

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Getting there

Knockan Crag is 13 miles (21 km) north of Ullapool on the A835.

The unmanned Rock Room visitor centre is open at all times.

Bring suitable footwear, weatherwear, food and drink.

Support this NNR at www.nature.scot/donate-nnr

Cover:
'Thrust' designed by Frances Pelly, built by Joe Smith and Max Nowell.
'Thrust' air a dhealbhadh le Frances Pelly, air a thogail le Joe Smith agus Max Nowell.

Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
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A' faighinn ann

Tha Creag a' Chnocain 13 mìle (21 km) tuath air Ullapool air an A835.

Ged nach eil duine ann, tha ionad-tadhaill Seòmar nan Creag fosgailte fad na h-ùine.

Thoir leat brògan freagarrach, aodach airson droch shìde, biadh agus deoch.

Cuir taic ris an TNN seo aig www.nature.scot/donate-nnr



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Creag a' Chnocain
Tèarmann Nàdair Nàiseanta

Knockan Crag
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Walk back into deep time

From the Rock Room three trails take you to the features that make Knockan Crag special.

The Crag Top Trail rewards you with an eagle's eye view of deep time on this circular route with a few steep climbs past the Moine Thrust. About one hour.

The Thrust Trail takes you to the spot where Peach and Horne solved the mystery. 30 minutes.

The Quarry Trail is an easier option avoiding the climb to the Thrust. 20 minutes.

Coisich air ais ann an tìm

Bho Sheòmar nan Creag bheir trì slighean thu gu na feartan a tha a' dèanamh Creag a' Chnocain cho sònraichte.

Bho Shlighe Bàrr na Creige, gheibh thu sealladh iongantach de thìm air slighe cearcallach le earranan caran cas seachad air Sàthadh Mòine. Mu uair a thide.

Bheir Slighe an t-Sàthaidh thu gu far an do dh'fhuasgail Peach agus Horne a' cheist a bha romhpa. 30 mionaid.

Tha Slighe a' Chuaraidh nas fhasa, agus chan fheum thu dìreadh chun an t-Sàthaidh. 20 mionaid.



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North West Highlands GEOPARK
Iar-Thuarth na Gàidhealtachd

'Pipeworm' by Susheila Jamieson
'Pipeworm' le Susheila Jamieson

An inspiring landscape

On the trails you will discover how artists and poets have interpreted this ancient landscape.

'Something to do with time has all to do
With shape and size ...'

Norman MacCaig

Dealbh-tìre iongantach

Air na slighean gheibh thu a-mach mar a mhìnich luchd-ealain agus bàird an seann dealbh-tìre seo.

'Gach nì co-cheangailte ri tìm gan nochdadh
An cumadh is meud an nì...'

Norman MacCaig (Air eadartheangachadh)

'Globe' by Joe Smith
'Globe' le Joe Smith



Stop, look and listen

You may meet other visitors on the trails. In summer, song thrush, stonechat and meadow pipit serenade walkers and ravens and nesting kestrels haunt the cliffs. Frogs shelter in damp hollows and lizards sunbathe close to the paths while eagles and buzzards circle the mountains.

Stad, seall agus èist

'S dòcha gun coinnich thu ri eòin air na slighean. As t-samhradh, bidh an smeòrach, an cloichearan agus an t-snathag a' ceilearadh ri luchd-coiseachd, agus bidh fithich agus clamhain ruadha air na bearraidhean. Bidh losgainn ann an lagan tais, agus bidh laghairtean a' gabhail na grèine faisg air na slighean, agus bidh iolairan agus clamhain ag itealach mu na beanntan.

Male stonechat
Cloichearan - fireann



Travel the Rock Route

Look out for the Rock Route panels on your journey through Scotland's first Geopark.

Gabh Slighe nan Creag

Coimhead airson pannalan Slighe nan Creag air do thuras tron chiad Gheophàirc ann an Alba.

Rock Route Panel at Stronchrubie
Pannal Slighe nan Creag aig Sròn Chrùbaidh

