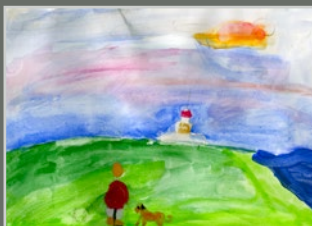


Stoer Lighthouse with Red Boat.
by Katie, P1



Stoer Lighthouse.
by Millie, P4



Stoer Lighthouse at Sunset.
by Callum, P6

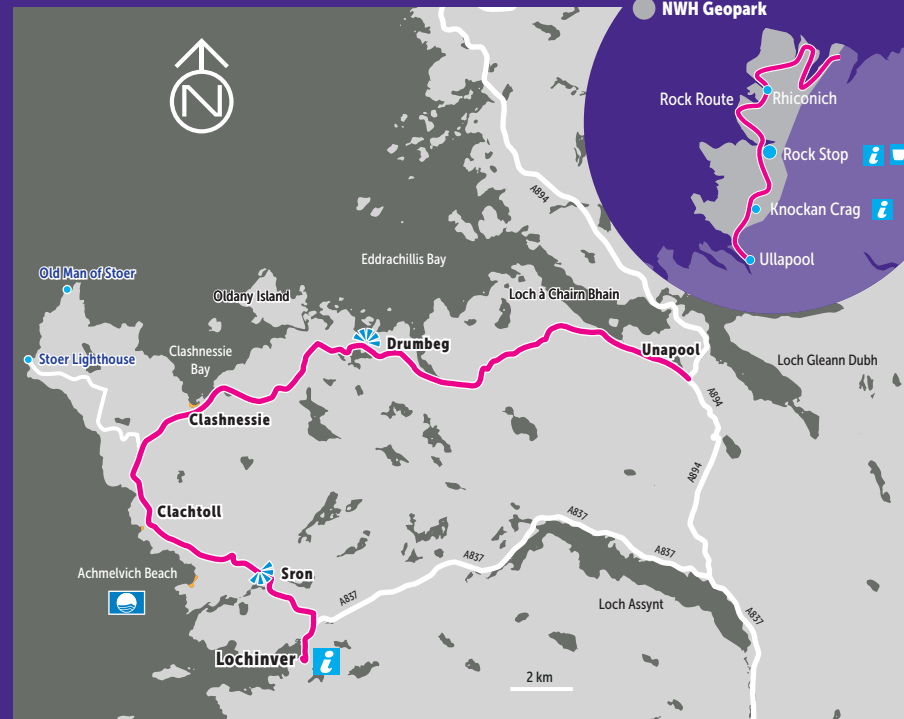


Split Rock.
by Annabelle, P3



Old Man of Stoer.
by Caty, P6

Paintings by the children of Stoer Primary School



North West Highlands Geopark Limited • 396 Elphin, By Lairg, Sutherland, IV27 4HH
(T) 01854 622754 • (E) info@nwhgeopark.com • www.nwhgeopark.com
For local information: www.discoverassynt.co.uk



PES GB

SSE



Pebble Route 3



The loop road around North Assynt (Asainte) is a wonderful driving or cycling route and there's plenty of 'hidden gems' on the way to stop for a tea and cake! Passing by white sandy beaches and archaeological culture spanning the past four thousand years of Norse and Gaelic history, there is so much to see here.

The area is also famous for its community ownership. In the early 1990s the crofters managed to buy the land for £300,000 following a big fundraising campaign and contributing their own savings. Although modern crofting has its origins in the 18th century, small scale agriculture like this has been practiced on the North Atlantic Fringe for six thousand years. Today many crofters depend on their animals for much of their livelihood so please be really careful with your dogs around livestock.

The area around Badentarbat contains extensive lazy-beds (for growing potatoes) and the remains of over 30 buildings. Salmon bothies, where men would live whilst salmon fishing are also common around the coast-line.

What is a Geopark?

Geoparks are set up and managed by a local community and there are more than 100 Geoparks worldwide.

Every community is different and so every Geopark is different but we all share a common aim which is to tell the story of our landscape and make it accessible to visitors.

This in turn helps to bring resources into sensitive rural areas, creating jobs and supporting small businesses.

What is the NWH Geopark?

A Social Enterprise, set up by the representatives from the six community councils within its boundaries. It exists to:

Explore Deep Time, Evoke a Sense of Place and Encourage Stewardship

This means encouraging adventures for everyone which helps people connect with the land and feel responsible for maintaining its beauty, wildlife and resources.

Evoke a Sense of Place

Explore Deep Time

North West Highlands
GEOPARK
Iar-Thuath na Gàidhealtachd

Island Mountains

Pull into the carpark just before the top of the hill at the **Sron** (nose), here you can see why the landscape in Assynt (Asainte) is iconic. The hills here rise up like blips on a heart rate monitor, the last roots of long gone mountains. Glaciers have carved out these striking 'inselbergs' (island mountains) and each has its own

distinctive personality. At its heart Assynt has some of the most complex geology anywhere in the world and there is always a steady stream of future Earth scientists studying the rocks at the side of the road. Call into the Rock Stop at Unapool to find out more.

Buried landscapes

At **Clachtoll** you can stop and have a walk on the beach or visit the remains of an iron age broch tower. There's a Ranger hut here with lots of information about the wildlife and history. You can't miss the curious 'split rock' but if you look carefully you might find the contact between 3

billion year old stripy Lewisian gneiss and 1.2 billion year old red Torridonian sandstone at the far end of the beach. This is the moment that vast rivers carrying sand and pebbles began to bury hills and valleys made of gneiss.

Whales and fruit

Look out to sea and you may be lucky enough to spot some dolphins, or head out to **Stoer** lighthouse for whale watching. If you walk around the Stoer peninsular you'll notice an impressive sea-stack called the '**Old Man of Stoer**'. He's very popular with rock climbers!

Continue your journey past **Clashnessie beach** and **Oldany Island**. Oldney is Old Norse for 'fruit

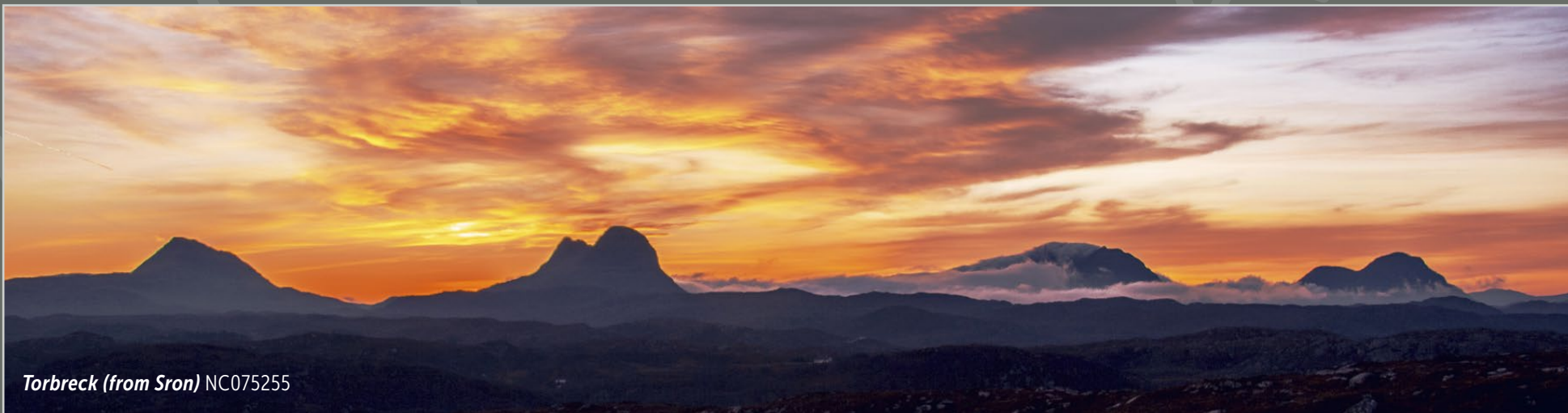
island', a delicious concept! The island has been uninhabited since the 1700s, but there's a large burial ground called 'Baile na Cille' (the town by the church) which suggests this hasn't always been the case.

Endless exploring

The view out from Drumbeg is over Eddrachilles bay and the islands you can see are Eilean an Achaidh (the field island) and Cul Eilean (the back island). You might be able to see the salmon farm, nestled between the islands. Continue your route along past Nedd, why not explore the many footpaths and discover ancient Duns, Iron Age

fridges (Souterrains) and old sheilings? The hill that now dominates the landscape to the east is the Quinag (coon-yak) which is named after its narrow tip that resembles a cuinneag (milk-pail).

Encourage Stewardship



Torbreck (from Sron) NC075255

Photography: Lochinver Landscapes



Drumbeg NC119329