

British Antarctic Survey
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

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1:150 000 Scale

Geological Map of the South Orkney Islands

BAS GEOMAP 2 Series, Sheet 3, Edition 1

Geological interpretation and map compilation by M.J. Flowerdew, T.R. Riley and C.E. Haselwimmer. Geological cross sections compiled by M.J. Flowerdew and C.E. Haselwimmer. Data preparation, digital cartography, design, and layout by C.E. Haselwimmer. Geological mapping and digital map production was undertaken as part of the BAS Environmental Change and Evolution (ECE) programme.

Base map data for coastlines, rock outcrops, and ice shelves from the Antarctic Digital Database. The Antarctic Digital Database is copyright © 1993-2006 Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.

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Projection: WGS 1984 Antarctic Polar Stereographic, Central Meridian: 60°W, Spheroid: WGS84. Latitude of true scale: 71°S.
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GEOLOGICAL LEGEND

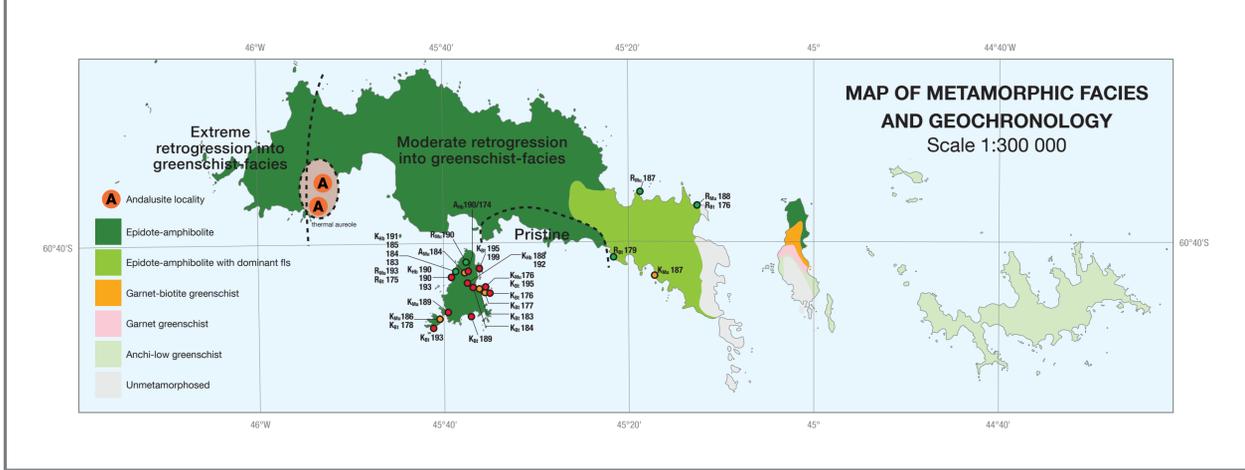
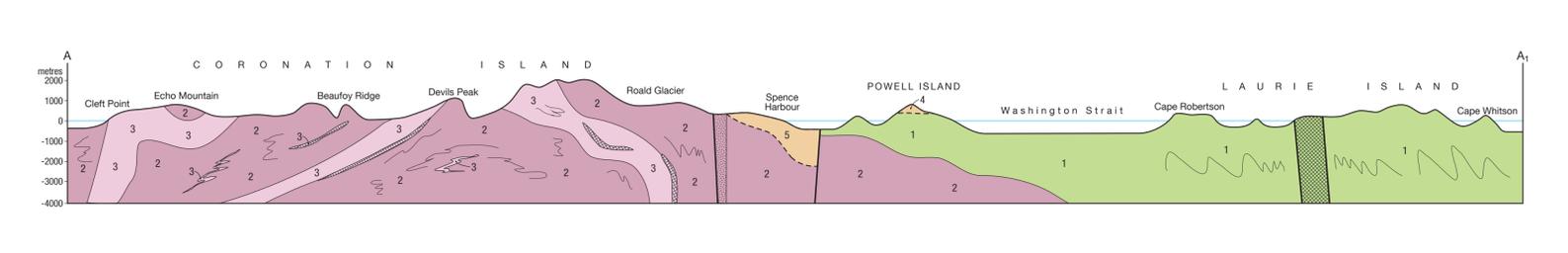
Geological units are coloured as dark and light tints representing exposed (nunataks) or inferred geology (under ice or snow)

PERIOD	EPOCH/AGE	SEDIMENTARY ROCKS	PLUTONIC AND METAMORPHIC ROCKS
CRETACEOUS	Early	Spence Harbour Conglomerate Predominantly conglomerate with thin persistent sandstone interbeds, exposed on eastern Coronation Island and Matthews Island, deposited as debris flows and braided stream deposits in alluvial fans within terrestrial to marine fault-bounded basins. Boulders lithologically resembling the Scotia Metamorphic Complex (2) are dominant and suggest a local derivation from the west. Age constraints come from calcareous sandstone boulders at Rayner Point which contain a Late Jurassic - Early Cretaceous fauna and also from a poorly preserved Late Jurassic - Early Cretaceous marine fauna on Matthews Island. Basal units in the vicinity of Gibbon Bay, eastern Coronation Island, consist of sparsely fossiliferous (Late Jurassic - Early Cretaceous) dark marine shale, the Gibbon Bay Shale. It rests unconformably on the Scotia Metamorphic Complex (1).	Scotia Metamorphic Complex (mixed unit) Scotia Metamorphic Complex (2) with abundant interleaved units of ocean floor derived sequences of uncertain (probable Permian - early Jurassic) age. The coenoc elements include marble, amphibolite and epidote amphibolites, metapelite and metachert which were juxtaposed with the Scotia Metamorphic Complex (2) during Late Triassic / early Jurassic deformation at epidote amphibolite facies metamorphic grade. The mixed unit is exposed on Signy Island, Coronation Island and the Inaccessible Islands.
	Late		
JURASSIC	Middle	Powell Island Conglomerate Conglomerate and sandstone exposed on southern Powell Island, deposited as debris flows and braided stream deposits in alluvial fans within terrestrial to marine fault-bounded basins. Boulders resembling Greywacke Shale Formation (1) suggest a local derivation from the north and east. Youngest braided stream deposits at Johns Peaks contain Middle Jurassic flora.	Scotia Metamorphic Complex Protoliths equivalent to Greywacke Shale Formation (1) but Late Triassic / early Jurassic metamorphism reached epidote amphibolite facies grade.
	Early		
TRASSIC / PERMIAN		Greywacke Shale Formation Permian - Triassic sandstone (feldspathic arenite and feldspathic wacke) with minor siltstone, mudstone and diamictite deposited as turbidity currents in submarine fans and widely exposed east of Coronation Island. Variably deformed and foliated, metamorphosed to between anchizone to upper greenschist-facies during the Late Triassic / early Jurassic.	

GEOLOGICAL CROSS SECTION FROM CLEFT POINT TO CAPE WHITSON

(Line A-A₁ drawn on the map)

Horizontal scale 1:150 000 Vertical exaggeration x 2



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MAP COMPILATION DIAGRAM

Numbers of the bounding boxes refer to the references listed above

GEOLOGICAL SYMBOLS

— Geological boundary	↖↗ Cleavage or metamorphic foliation	⊖ Invertebrate fossil
— Fault	↘↗ Fold hinge line	⊛ Radiolarian fossil
- - - Unconformity	↘↗ Rodding within L-tectonites	⊙ Fossil leaves
↘↗ Bedding	▧ Fault breccia	
↘↗ Overturned bedding	▧ Ductile shear zone	

— Dolerite Dykes: tholeiitic augite and rarely olivine-bearing dolerite dykes recognised intermittently along the southern Coast of Coronation Island and on Matthews Island. K-Ar whole rock geochronology suggests a Late Cretaceous intrusion age for the dolerites.

Radiometric ages

Coloured circles (key below) on the 'Map of Metamorphic Facies and Geochronology' indicate method and ages (Ma) of metamorphism and on the main map indicate method and ages of sedimentary and igneous protoliths.

Age reliability (main and metamorphic maps)	Inferred protolith ages (main map)	Metamorphic ages (metamorphic map)
● Reliable age	Rm Rb-Sr whole rock radiometric age	Ka K-Ar biotite radiometric age
● Possibly reliable age	Km K-Ar whole rock radiometric age	Kh K-Ar hornblende radiometric age
● Unreliable age		Km K-Ar muscovite radiometric age
		Rb Rb-Sr muscovite radiometric age
		Rb Rb-Sr biotite radiometric age
		Aa Ar-Ar hornblende radiometric age
		Aa Ar-Ar muscovite radiometric age

OTHER SYMBOLS

— Coastline	□ Sea
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