
**Petrological comparison of sills and dykes in
metasedimentary rocks of the Meguma terrane, Nova
Scotia, and the Harlech Dome, Wales***

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The Meguma terrane of southern Nova Scotia and the Harlech Dome of North Wales have similar Cambrian metasedimentary successions consisting of thick basal units of quartzose turbidite deposits, grading upward into early to middle Cambrian mud-rich and sand-rich units, containing manganese-rich layers, and overlain by turbidites deposited in anoxic environments and Tremadocian mudstone. Coarse clastic units in the lower parts of both successions contain similar detrital zircon age populations, and both areas are considered to have originated as peri-Gondwanan terranes. Their similarities have led to the suggestion that both areas were part of one palaeogeographical domain, for which the name Megumia has been proposed.

In addition to their stratigraphic similarities, both areas are characterized by abundant intrusive igneous rocks. The Harlech Dome hosts a large number of sills, dykes, and plutons of mafic to intermediate composition, generally assumed to be related to the Ordovician Rhobell and Aran volcanic groups. The northwestern part of the Meguma terrane, northwest of the Chebogue Point Shear Zone, is also characterized by abundant intrusions, mainly mafic sills, some of which show syn-sedimentary relationships with their Cambrian host rocks and some of which are Silurian-Devonian. A comparison of petrographic and chemical characteristics of the intrusions has been undertaken to shed additional light on the possibility of a paleogeographic relationship between the Harlech Dome and the Meguma terrane, using a compilation of petrological data from previous studies as well as analyses of new samples collected in both areas for the present study. Samples from the Harlech Dome range from mafic to felsic whereas those from the Meguma terrane are mafic. Preliminary results show that the Harlech Dome samples are calc-alkalic and likely formed in a magmatic arc setting at a convergent plate margin. In contrast, the mafic sills in the Meguma terrane are tholeiitic transitional to alkalic and formed in a within-plate tectonic setting.

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