**THE CENTRAL SCOTLAND REGIONAL GROUP OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY x Edinburgh Geological Society x British Geological Survey**

# Drilling into the Core of the Great Glen Fault – core store visit

**Dr Romesh Palamakumbura (British Geological Survey)**

**Friday 27th November 2026 13:00 – 17:00** Meeting point

at BGS Lyell Centre with a small walk to the core store, please

let Nikki or Emma know if you will be late.

**Registration details: £10 per ticket – link here**

**BGS Lyell Centre, Edinburgh, Currie EH14 4AP**

Coordinators:

- Nikki Dakin (Central Scotland Geological Society) - 07739362684
- Emma Bedda (Edinburgh Geological Society) - 07749101822



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The Great Glen Fault Zone provides an exceptional natural laboratory to investigate how faults evolve, and how they interact with fluids and melts, which is critical to predicting both fault behaviour and resource potential. Recent ground investigations for the Coire Glas pumped-storage hydropower scheme have recovered previously unseen drill core from the heart of this major crustal-scale fault system. These cores preserve a remarkable record of faulting, reactivation, fluid flow, metasomatism and igneous intrusion, offering an unprecedented view into the shallow-crustal evolution of the Great Glen Fault.

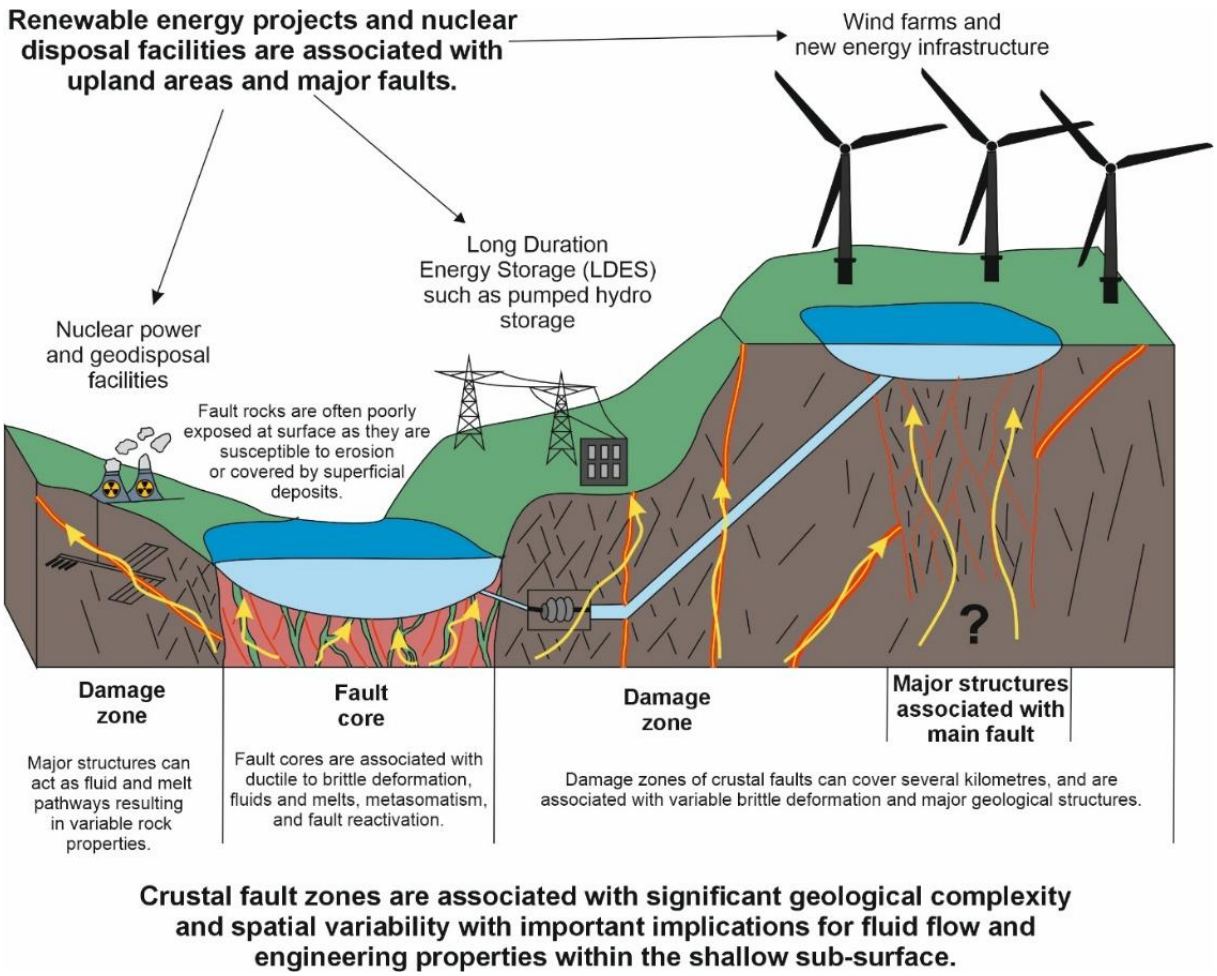
Major crustal faults are dynamic zones that focus deformation, fluid flow, magmatism and mineralisation over millions of years. These processes influence geological hazards, underground infrastructure, geothermal resources and the formation of economically important mineral deposits. Understanding how faults evolve, and how they interact with fluids and melts, is therefore critical to predicting both fault behaviour and resource potential. This workshop presents an opportunity to examine these new cores from Loch Lochy and the underground exploratory adit. Together, we will explore what they reveal about the initiation, evolution and reactivation of continental fault systems, and consider how deformation, fluids and magmatism interact to shape the architecture, behaviour and resource potential of major crustal faults. The cores provide rare and tangible evidence from within a long-lived fault zone, helping us address a fundamental question: **what controls the evolution of crustal fault systems through geological time?**

Additional details: https://geoscientist.online/sections/features/coire-glas-great-glen-fault/

**Speaker Biography**

**Dr Romesh Palamakumbura** is a Senior Geologist at the British Geological Survey specialising in the structural characterisation of crustal-scale fault systems & fracture networks. His research integrates field and drill-core mapping, fault-rock characterisation and geological modelling to reconstruct fault-zone evolution from outcrop to regional scale. He works across the full architecture of fault zones, from fault core to damage zone, with particular expertise in crystalline basement settings. His work focuses on understanding how fault and fracture networks influence groundwater flow, aquifer properties and engineering performance. Recent work on the Great Glen Fault has established structural and paragenetic frameworks for fault-related carbonate mineralisation associated with major pumped-hydro developments in Scotland. He has also led and contributed to projects investigating basement groundwater systems in Africa and the Dharwar Craton of India, fracture-controlled landscape evolution in Sweden, & regional tectonic problems in Cyprus & New Zealand.

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**Crustal fault zones are associated with significant geological complexity and spatial variability with important implications for fluid flow and engineering properties within the shallow sub-surface.**

**Transport**:

- Car parking available in car park C. Public transport encouraged bus: 25, 34, 35.

**Health and safety information:**

- The core store is a working environment with high tables and not many chairs.
- Core can be heavy, **please do not lift the core.**
- **If you touch the core, please wash your hands after handling core.**
- **Please do not leave the building without informing a leader.**

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