

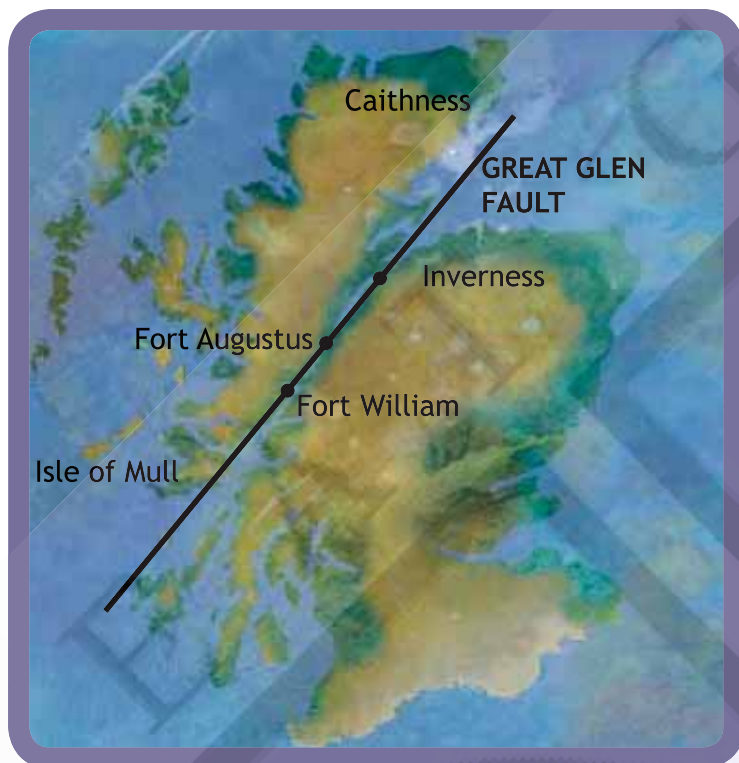


The Great Glen's great fault

Sgàineadh a' Ghlinne Mhòir

Pronounced: Skaneeaa a Ghleenya Vore

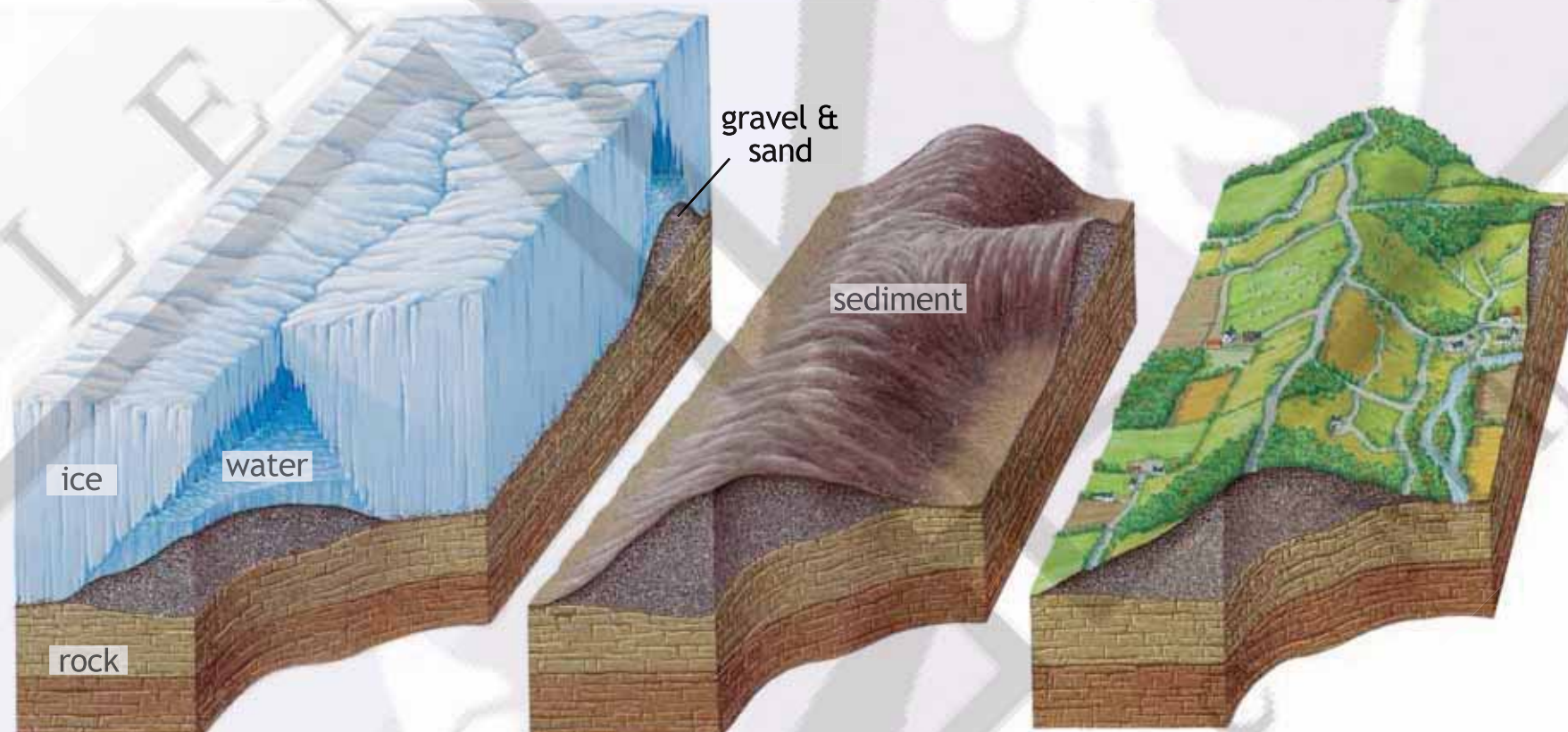
Don't panic - but you are standing on the Great Glen earthquake fault *Mòr-roinnean a' bualadh*, which runs east from the Isle of Mull, right along the Great Glen, and up along the east coast into Caithness.



Continental collisions

The earliest known movement of the Great Glen fault occurred over 400 million years ago at the end of a series of huge continental collisions *sgàineadh crith-thalmhainn* when both Scandinavia and England collided with Scotland Alba.

Many movements on the fault have occurred since and it is still active. Fortunately, no major earthquakes have been recorded and most of the tremors which occur are too faint to be noticed.



1. Glacial period

2. After the glaciers melted

3. Present day

The essence of eskers

Na h-eisgeirean

Tomnahurich (across the canal from here) and Torvean (along the canal to your right) are good examples of eskers. They date back to 20,000 years ago when Ice Age glaciers last covered the Great Glen.

Powerful meltwater rivers flowed in tunnels beneath the ice and carried large amounts of gravel and sand *grinneal is gainmheach*. As the ice melted, the gravel and sand were left behind as sinuous ridges of sediment, known as "eskers".



Did you know...?

During the Ice Age Scotland was covered many times by glaciers and ice sheets, some as much as 1,500 metres thick. That's higher than Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, which is 1,344 metres (4,406 feet) high.