

Geological History of Marginal Way Ogunquit, Maine

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All along the tourist walkway of Marginal Way Ogunquit, Maine one can expect to see lots of exposed rocks. These formations consist of two major rock types. The lighter colored one that makes up most of the bedrock, also known as the Kittery formation, and darker colored rocks that cut across the Kittery formation. These dark rocks, known as dyke intrusions, are the formation of focus. Our research project hoped to answer questions from both the community partners of Ogunquit, as well as contribute to the scientific discussion of the origin of the basalt dykes. Our research was collected with these two audiences in mind, and thus also focused on learning how to communicate our findings to the community.

Our challenge was to identify the age and origin of dyke intrusions. Past research suggests the basalt dykes could have come from one of three different geological events. The potential hypotheses are 1.) the Central Atlantic Magmatic Province "CAMP," which initiated the spreading of the Atlantic Ocean. 2.) the Midcontinent Rift System, which initiated the spreading of the Atlantic Ocean. 3.) the New England Rift System, which initiated the spreading of the Atlantic Ocean.

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