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Landslides of Sri Lanka with emphasis on Bogahagoda failure

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In Sri Lanka, landslides occur in the highland areas underlain by Precambrian metamorphic rocks during periods of intense precipitation. Most of the earlier studies on landslides were conducted on unstable locations in Nuwara Eliya, Badulla and Kandy districts. Out of these, the dangerous landslides occurred on the scarp slope of ridges underlain mostly by garnet biotite gneiss. They were described as slumps and earth flows. Earth flows extended to several kilometers (1 km to 5km) in length usually along dry streams that get activated during heavy rainfall. On road cuttings, the unstable locations were due to mostly slides occurring on dip slopes. More recently, landslides are reported to occur in the Southern province particularly along the trace of the Southern Expressway. These landslides occur on unstable locations on cut slopes of the expressway. These manifest the boudinage structure and the landslides show as charnockites as boudins wrapped by thinly foliated gneisses. In this work, the anatomy of the landslide that occurred recently at Bohahagoda is discussed in detail with emphasis on Boudinage structure.