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**Front Page Illustration**

Seismic reflection section WINCH-1 recorded offshore north of Lewis in 1982 (*Vide* Brewer, J. A. *et al.*, *Nature* 305, 206–10, 1983). This acoustic image approximates to a natural-scale vertical cross section, enabling features such as the Outer Isles Thrust (OO) to be traced into the lower crust, the base of which is the Moho (MM). The Flannan Thrust (FF) is the deepest reflector of its type observed anywhere to date; it is mappable to more than 45 km depth, with a true dip of about 30°.

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