

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE**Caher Hill**

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Caher

NEAREST TOWN

Scarriff, Lough Graney

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

19, 20

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

154750 190650 = R 5475 9065

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

52 1/2 inch Sheet No. 14

Outline Site Description

Hill exposures.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock TypeLate Ordovician (Caradoc) volcanics, graptolitic shales and [cherts](#).**Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

Caher Hill is the type locality for the Caher Hill Formation. Yellow, cream and pink-coloured [amygdaloidal trachytes](#) occur here. The yellow trachytes host [enclaves](#) up to 10cm in diameter of [basic](#) composition. The pink trachytes contain abundant [orthoclase phenocrysts](#). The trachytes overlie a succession of black shales and cherts, basic [lapilli tuffs](#) and a sequence of basic tuffs, lavas and [breccias](#). These rocks provide a record of sedimentation and volcanic eruptions within the contracting Iapetus Ocean. Graptolites found within the black shales have yielded a late Ordovician, Caradoc age for the rocks. The Caher Hill Formation is also exposed south and west of Lough Graney and near Lough Ea. Spillitic lavas occur at the latter locality.

Site Importance

The site is of County Geological Site importance and may be proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 4 Cambrian - Silurian theme of the GSI's IGH Programme.

Management/promotion issues

On private land, and not especially well exposed, so of scientific interest more than suitable for general promotion.



Caher Hill looking east (above left)
Caher Hill looking west towards Maghera
(above right)
Typical exposures on Caher Hill (left)

Caher Hill



Co. CLARE
Co. an Chláir