

CAVAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Bruse Hill
Other names used for site	Carrigasimon Hill
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)	Carrigabruse, Bruse, Carrakeelty, Carrigasimon, Enagh, Fartagh
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Virginia, Mullagh
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	44
ITM CO-ORDINATES	664471E 784020N (summit of crag)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	35 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 13

Outline Site Description

This is an excellent example of a crag and tail ridge.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The crag comprises quartz-greywacke of the Castlerahan Formation. The crag-and-tail feature itself is Quaternary in age, having been formed at the base of the ice sheet moving northeast to southwest during the maximum period of the last Ice Age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This is one of the few discrete examples of a crag and tail ridge throughout the drumlin belt, where composite crag-and-tail features are more common.

Craggs are formed when a glacier or ice sheet passes over an area that contains a particularly resistant mass of rock (in this case the rock summit of Bruse Hill itself). The force of the glacier erodes the surrounding softer material, leaving the rocky block protruding from the surrounding terrain. The crag then serves as a partial shelter to softer material in the wake of the glacier, which remains as a gradual fan or ridge forming a tapered ramp (called the tail) up the leeward side of the crag. This is seen on the southeastwards side of the crag itself, tailing into Enagh and Fartagh townlands.

The Bruse Hill tail feature extends for a distance of just under 3 kilometres, and the crag reaches a height of 196m O.D. at its summit.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is probably the finest discrete crag-and-tail within the entire drumlin belt.

Management/promotion issues

This is an excellent site in terms of macro-scale Quaternary subglacial geomorphology. The feature is beside the N3 and is easily visible from the road itself.

A signboard in Lisduff village detailing the importance and formation of the feature, and the adjacent Blackwater Valley, might prove useful.



Bruse Hill, viewed from the west.



The rock 'crag' on Bruse Hill itself, at the break of slope with the 'tail'.



