

KERRY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Laght Point
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH11 Igneous Intrusions, IGH10 Devonian
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballycarbery South
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Caherciveen
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	79
ITM CO-ORDINATES	443490E 578870N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	83
GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	20
GIS CODE	KY059

Outline Site Description

Low foreshore outcrops around a small headland.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock comprises gabbro and dolerite of the Valentia Harbour Igneous Complex, of similar age to the mid-Devonian Valentia Slate Formation (c. 385 million years old), which the gabbro and dolerite intrude.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Dolerite and gabbro of the Beginish Island intrusion (see Beginish Island County Geological Site report) crops out on the east side of Valentia Harbour, at Laght Point and Bealtra (see Bealtra County Geological Site report). Laght Point is the headland on the south side of Whitestrand Beach and is formed of a sill of dolerite and gabbro, emplaced conformably into the Valentia Slate Formation. The first outcrops encountered at the end of the beach are Valentia Slate Formation rocks, but they pass rapidly southwards into the gabbro and dolerite. On the southern side of the headland, the contact between the gabbro/dolerite and Valentia Slate Formation is well exposed.

The gabbro/dolerite sill dips steeply north, appearing to follow the bedding of the enclosing sedimentary rocks. For the most part the gabbro and dolerite have a massive texture, devoid of any apparent structure, but igneous layering has been observed in places. Columnar jointing is also developed in places, especially on the south side of the headland.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Laght Point is an excellent, accessible site in which to view an example of the mafic igneous intrusions of the Valentia Harbour Igneous Complex. Along with the nearby Bealtra County Geological Site, it provides significant insight into the relationship between the igneous rocks and their host sediments.

Management/promotion issues

Most of the Laght Point site is within the Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC (site code 002262). There are no obvious threats to the site other than ongoing coastal erosion. Laght Point is c. 1 km south of Bealtra County Geological Site and 500 m south of the car park at Whitestrand Beach, which provides access to Laght Point. Consideration should be given to a signboard in the car park outlining the geology of Valentia Harbour, including Laght Point, Bealtra and Beginish Island.



View southwards across Whitestrand Beach towards Laght Point.



Gabbro on the north side of Laght Point, dipping steeply to north (towards camera).



Outcrop of gabbro at Laght Point, extending in direction of Beginish Island where further exposure of the gabbro can be observed.



Igneous layering in gabbro on the north side of Laght Point.



Gabbro on the south side of Laght Point, close to contact (not in view) with Valentia Slate Formation. The gabbro displays columnar structures in places (e.g. bottom left). Note quartz veining in gabbro.

