

# LOUTH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	Slievenaglogh		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	IGH11 Igneous Intrusions		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Slievenaglogh, Annaloughan		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	Jenkinstown		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	8		
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	713314E 809336N		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	36	<b>GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	8/9

## Outline Site Description

This is a mountain-top site, an area of commonage with large outcrops surrounded by blanket bog.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The outcrops contain a variety of igneous rocks, all part of the Palaeogene Carlingford Igneous Complex (59Ma).

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The area between the summits of Slievenaglogh and Annaloughan Mountain contains one of two large mapped outcrop zones of vent agglomerate in the Carlingford Complex. Vent agglomerates typically form in and around volcanic vents when explosive eruption shatters solidified lava within the vent. The fragments are deposited around the vent as angular clasts that can reach 10s of cm in diameter. Agglomerates can also include rounded fragments of volcanic bombs. The matrix is generally a fine-grained tuff. At Slievenaglogh the agglomerate is visible in several large outcrops. Rounded and angular lithic clasts range up to 10cm in diameter / length.

Most of Annaloughan Mountain and Slievenaglogh is underlain by granophyric microgranite which is exposed in numerous outcrops. Layered gabbro is also present between the vent agglomerate outcrops on the eastern part of the site. Basalt, with irregularly-shaped pyroxene phenocrysts, can also be observed on the western side of the site. The basalt has a distinctive pitted weathering surface where phenocrysts have been recessed by weathering. It is presumably one of the early basalts whose main outcrop is on the southern slopes of Slievenaglogh (see Rampark report).

## Site Importance – County Geological Site

Vent agglomerate is a minor lithology within the Carlingford Igneous Complex, with very restricted occurrence, and this site contains perhaps the best and most easily accessible exposures. It also contains good exposure of the lithologies that make up the bulk of the Carlingford Complex, layered gabbro and granophyric microgranite, as well less common basalt.

## Management/promotion issues

The site is unspoilt upland commonage, used for grazing sheep. The Annaloughan Loop walk runs through the forestry plantation that lies to the west of the site and there are two small areas for parking cars beside the road that forms its northern boundary. A stile allows easy access to the site from the road. Unlike other upland sites in the Carlingford area, Slievenaglogh is not part of an existing SAC or proposed NHA. There is scope for placing a signboard in the car-park area. Apart from its geological significance, the site affords excellent views southwards over Dundalk Bay and northwards over Carlingford Mountain area and the Mourne Mountains.



View southeastwards across Slievenaglogh (summit on left) and Annaloughan.



Vent agglomerate (left) and in close-up (right, coin 24mm diameter) displaying irregularly shaped, unsorted clasts in fine matrix.



Porphyritic basalt on west side of site showing dissolution pits on weathered surface (left) and irregularly-shaped phenocrysts (right) (coin 24mm in diameter).





