

MONAGHAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Carrickatee Hill
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH4 Cambrian to Silurian
TOWNLAND(S)	Carrickatee
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Ballybay
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	24
ITM CO-ORDINATES	673698E 815443N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	28
GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	8/9

Outline Site Description

The site comprises extensive series of outcrops on top of a partly wooded hill (230m O.D.) and large crags on its southern slopes.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks are mainly mafic and felsic pyroclastic volcanic rocks of the Ordovician Carrickatee Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Carrickatee Formation is part of the Ordovician–Silurian Central Belt of the Longford-Down inlier. Moffat Shales occur at the base of many of the individual tracts that make up the inlier and the Carrickatee Formation, which generally comprises shale and mudstone, is the equivalent of the Moffat Shale Group. At Carrickatee Hill, however, the formation comprises mainly volcanic rocks, the best exposed examples of mid–late-Ordovician volcanism in the Central Belt of the Longford-Down inlier.

On Carrickatee Hill the volcanic rocks are pyroclastic deposits consisting of angular, sub-angular and rounded cobbles of pale green vesicular andesitic lava set in a pale green tuffaceous matrix. These deposits are called *agglomerates*. Within the agglomerates, cobbles as large as 0.36m in length have been recorded though they are generally much smaller.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is the type locality of the Carrickatee Formation and the best exposure of Ordovician volcanic rocks in the central Belt of the Longford-Down inlier. It is therefore proposed as a CGS.

Management/promotion issues

The site is large one, encompassing a forested hilltop and extensive areas of grassland. All exposures are on private land. The best exposures, large crags on the southern slopes, are within fields used as cattle pasture. There are no evident threats to the site. Further promotion is not recommended as the site is likely to be of interest mainly to scientists.



Carrickatee Hill, viewed from southwest.



Large exposures of Carrickatee Formation on southern slopes of Carrickatee Hill



Andesite agglomerate of the Carrickatee Formation (left) and in close-up (right) showing angular clasts.



