

MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

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| NAME OF SITE | Glensaul (Tourmakeady) |
| Other names used for site | |
| IGH THEME | IGH4 Cambrian to Silurian |
| TOWNLAND(S) | Greenaun, Lettereeneen, Tonaglanna |
| NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE | Tourmakeady |
| SIX INCH MAP NUMBER | 116b |
| ITM CO-ORDINATES | 505470E 765620N (centre of feature) |
| 1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 23 | GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 11 |
| GIS Code MO058 | |

Outline Site Description

Rocky outcrops and a grazing landscape overlooking Lough Mask.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Ordovician (Arenig) age rhyolite volcanic rocks of the Tourmakeady Volcanic Succession that formed on the sea floor around 481-470 million years ago.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The features comprise a dome of rhyolite (igneous volcanic rocks) overlain by limestones and volcanoclastic sediments. The Tourmakeady Volcanic Succession includes a unit of banded, pale pinkish coloured (when weathered) rhyolites, which are studded with quartz crystals (quartz-porphyry). The rhyolite unit is up to 500m thick and columnar in places. The volcanic rocks were extruded (erupted) onto the sea floor and represent an early Ordovician island arc within an oceanic basin which was possibly the floor of the South Mayo Trough.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This County Geological Site is important in terms of understanding the geological history of the South Mayo region during the Ordovician period.

Management/promotion issues

The site is not deemed to be under threat; however any development that could interfere with the bedrock exposures should be prohibited. The features are not of significant interest for public promotion, but the inclusion of the site in any literature on the geological heritage of Tourmakeady and County Mayo is recommended.



View from site looking east towards Lough Mask.



Rhyolite outcrops at site.

