

NORTH DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Croaghan Hill
Other names used for site	Croaghan Head
IGH THEME	IGH 5 Precambrian
TOWNLAND(S)	Croaghan
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Portsalon
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	18
ITM CO-ORDINATES	618961E 940975N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 2	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 1
GIS Code ND040	

Outline Site Description

An area of hillside and coast.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The principal rock of interest here is the Portaskaig Formation, within the Kilmacrenan Succession. This is part of the Argyll Group of the Dalradian Supergroup.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site has extensive exposure of the Portaskaig Formation. This was also known as the Portaskaig Tillite but is more properly described as a series of diamictites interbedded with schist and quartzite. The 'tillite' or diamictites are the result of deposition by glaciers. They are the very ancient equivalent of the boulder clay or till of the Ice Age, that covers much of the land surface of Ireland. They have been lithified into hard rocks. Different clasts of different rock types can be seen, some up to 20cm in size, and the sedimentary evidence in them suggests they were formed at the coast.

There was some ice rafting of varied rock types, which dropped into the sediment on the seafloor as the supporting ice melted. Clasts are angular-to-rounded in shape, and are frequently granite. The matrix is mostly schist. The section is broken up by faulting and is interrupted by a metadolerite dyke, seen in the road cutting.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA

This is one of the better places to examine the Portaskaig Formation, where it has been logged and well mapped. It could be of national importance when compared with other sections.

Management/promotion issues

The site is private farmland and although there are some roadside exposures, they are not best representative exposures.



Portaskaig Formation outcrops across the peninsula northeast of Croaghan Island.



A view from near Cashel Glebe looking south to Croaghan Hill.



Roadside exposures are not the best ones.



Hillside exposures are quite extensive.



A large granitic clast is seen to the left of the hammer.



A large clast is seen to the left of the hammer.

