

## WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Comeragh volcanics</b>
Other names used for site	Carrigduff
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH10 Devonian</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Coolnahorna, Kilclooney</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	<b>Kilmacthomas</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>Waterford 15</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>234092 111915</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	75 <b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b> 22

### **Outline Site Description**

This site comprises rock exposures in the vicinity of Carrigduff, a prominent cliff, and exposures in a stream bed and forest tracks.

### **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

The rocks are volcanic lavas of Upper Devonian age.

### **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

Volcanic rocks are relatively rare in the Devonian rocks of Ireland, which are largely sedimentary rocks – sandstones and conglomerates laid down by large rivers and floods, on a land surface. This site is one of only two known in Waterford, and one of only seventeen across southern Ireland. As with all of them, the eruptions were localised and only small areas of volcanic lavas remain. In the lower slopes of the Comeraghs, close to Coumshingaun, two volcanic units are interbedded with the conglomerates there.

One unit, called the Coolnahorna Volcanic Member, was recorded in the bed of the Iske Sullas stream and then in forest tracks that were probably freshly made in 1978. The forest is so dense now that these exposures are not easily found.

Above this in the stratigraphy, making it a little younger, is the Carrigduff Volcanic Member, which is exposed above the big cliff of Carrigduff. Individual lava flows are only about 2m thick and the rocks have been partly cleared into heaps by a landowner.

### **Site Importance**

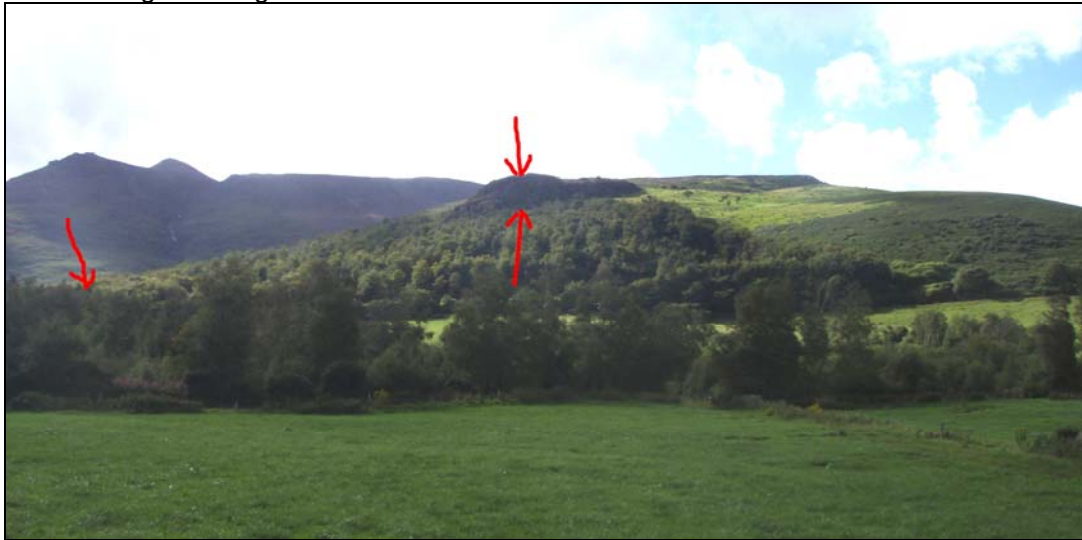
The site is of County Geological Site Importance.

### **Management/promotion issues**

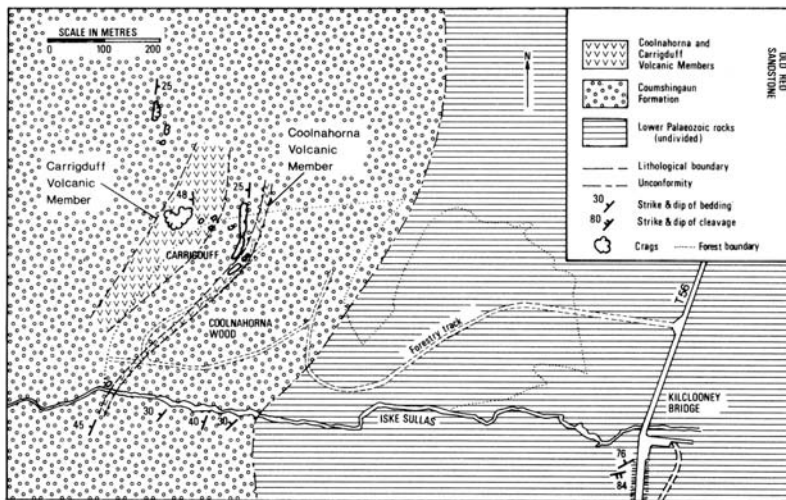
The inaccessibility of these rocks, due to forestry and lack of any obvious access paths, makes promotion in any form a difficult task, and not advisable. The rocks lack excellent exposure and contacts are not seen between lavas and the surrounding rocks. If forest clear felling were to take place then it may open up access, and potentially create new exposures in the rocks and this activity should be advised to the Geological Survey of Ireland if it is scheduled.



A distant side view of Carrigiduff, from the north, with volcanic rocks (arrowed) on the top right of the Carrigiduff conglomerate cliff and in the forest below it.



A front view of Carrigiduff, from the road near Kilclooney Bridge, with volcanic rocks (arrowed) on the top of the conglomerate cliff and in the forest directly below it, also down in the Iske Sullas stream gully on the left.



The locality map from the original paper describing these Comeragh volcanic rocks.

