

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Croughaun Hill
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH4 Cambrian to Silurian, IGH 10 Devonian
TOWNLAND(S)	Knockaturnory, Monminane, Killerguile, Kilcanavee, Cummeen, Ashtown
NEAREST TOWN	Kilmacthomas
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 15
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	238135 110274 (Devonian conglomerates) 238296 110231 (Ordovician slate quarry)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	75 1/2 inch Sheet No. 22

Outline Site Description

Croughaun Hill is a high, solitary hill which lies a few kilometres east of the Comeragh Mountains. The site comprises an area on the southeast flank of the hill.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The hill is comprised of conglomerates, sandstones and siltstones which are of Devonian age and which include the Coumshingaun Conglomerate Formation and the Croughaun Formation. The feature is ice-scoured and has thin soils and subsoils, but bedrock outcrop is actually quite rare, occurring on occasional crags across the feature. The site includes an exposure of Devonian bedrock and a quarry of Lower Ordovician Kilmacthomas Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The site includes the rarely exposed Kilmacthomas Formation of early Ordovician age, which only occurs in this area of the county. It is seen in a small farm quarry and is a grey slaty rock. A short distance further up the hill track exposures of the Devonian conglomerates are seen and the gap between conglomerate and slate rocks includes a large fault line which juxtaposes these two rock types, which are about 100 million years apart in age.

Geologists have argued over whether the conglomerates of Croughaun Hill are different from those of Coumshingaun, but there is no visible difference to a non-specialist.

Site Importance

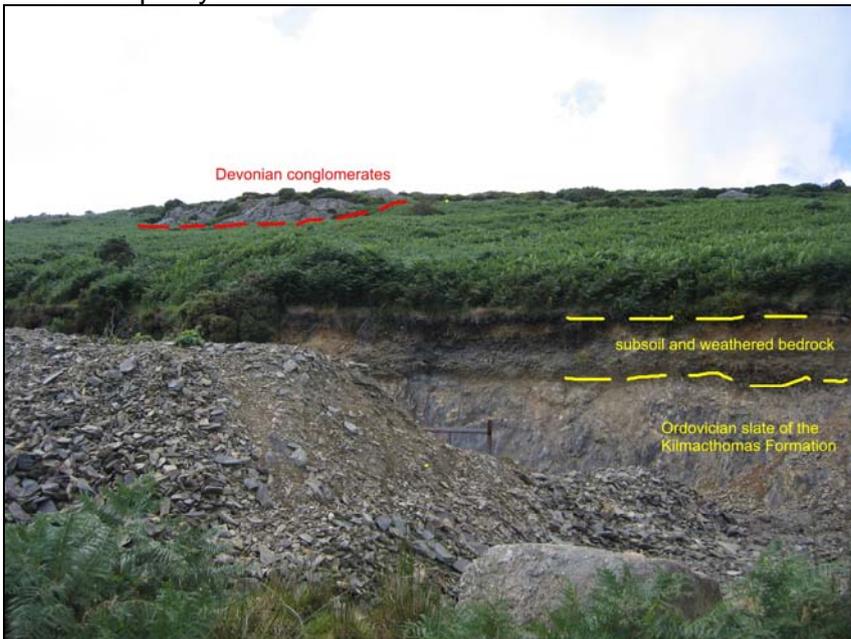
This is of County Geological Site importance only.

Management/promotion issues

Access is only through a private farm and the site is not suitable for general promotion.



The farm quarry in the Kilmacthomas Formation.



The quarry in the Kilmacthomas Formation with exposures of Devonian conglomerate visible in the short distance beyond.



A view of the exposures of Devonian conglomerates adjacent to the farm track.

