

LOUTH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Rampark		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH11 Igneous Intrusions		
TOWNLAND(S)	Rampark		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Jenkinstown		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	8		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	713695E 807648N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	36	GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	8/9

Outline Site Description

The main site consists of a series of outcrops bordering a private unpaved road on the southern slopes of Slievenagloagh, about 400m northwest of the village of Rampark.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks are similar to hawaiite lavas, considered to represent the earliest phase of igneous activity in the Palaeogene (c. 59 Ma) Carlingford Igneous Complex.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The earliest examples of igneous activity in the Carlingford Complex are lavas that form a synclinal structure on the southern slopes of Slievenagloagh, between the granophyric microgranite on the hill to the north and the limestone of the coastal lowland to the south. The core of the synclinal structure is formed by a distinctive hawaiite lava. Hawaiite is an alkali basalt first described from Hawaii. It typically contains olivine phenocrysts and its plagioclase is andesine rather than more Ca-rich plagioclase typical of basalts.

The hawaiites are exposed in a series of outcrops on the northern side of the unpaved private road (see map), and are also observed as boulders on the hillside, notably in an overgrown pit or quarry near the Y-junction (see map). The hawaiite is a medium grey rock with a fine-grained matrix, containing phenocrysts of pale green olivine up to 10mm across. Plagioclase may or may not be present as white prismatic crystals.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The southern slopes of Slievenagloagh are the only known location of these distinctive lavas in the county. Apart from their unusual composition, the lavas are significant because they represent the earliest known phase of magmatism in the Carlingford Complex. On both these counts, the exposures above Rampark should be designated as a CGS.

Management/promotion issues

The outcrops are on the side of a private road that leads from the public road west of Rampark to a private house. The entrance to the private road is marked by a gate and cattle grid. The main risks arise from any future possible road-widening or resurfacing scheme. Consultation with the landowner would be required to ensure protection of outcrops.



View of hawaiite lava outcrop, looking east along track



Massive hawaiite lava outcrop (left); view of overgrown quarry with hawaiite boulders (right).



Pale green olivine phenocrysts (O) in hawaiite lava (left); phenocrysts of plagioclase in hawaiite (right).



