

NORTH DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Glinsk
Other names used for site	Glinsk, NW Fanad
IGH THEME	IGH5 Precambrian
TOWNLAND(S)	Glinsk
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Carrickart
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	16
ITM CO-ORDINATES	613079E 940753N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 2	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 1
GIS Code ND039	

Outline Site Description

Coastal exposures with some inland exposures over more than 2km of section. It extends from Donaghmore Strand in the north to the edge of Drumnacraig Bay in the south.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Dalradian pelites of the Sessiagh - Clonmass Formation are metamorphosed by the Fanad Granite Pluton.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site has a section of the pelitic rocks of the Sessiagh – Clonmass Formation which are roughly at right angles to the contact with the Fanad Granite Pluton. Although there is some evidence of a mild degree of deformation associated with the intrusion of the granite, the principal geological interest here is a section that displays the effects of contact metamorphism. The effects of heat from a large granite intrusion create a thermal metamorphism, which falls off in a gradient, going away from the intrusion. It is rare to find an example where the effects of heat alone are demonstrated, as opposed to a combination of heat with deformations caused by pressure or stress associated with the intrusion.

The thermal metamorphic effect or metamorphic (or contact) aureole, is traced over about 2km of section along the shore, with different new minerals appearing at different distances with textures, size of crystals and shapes all being affected.

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

The site is of national importance in demonstrating the static thermal metamorphism caused by a large granite body, within one homogeneous formation.

Management/promotion issues

Access to the site is not easy, and aside from one boreen near the southern end, from Glinsk village itself, it appears that crossing private farmland is required. Low tide is best for this traverse along the coast, but caution is required at all times.



An overview of the site from higher ground, looking around at the arc of the coast.



A mineral assemblage typical of one of the zones of the static metamorphic aureole.



Views of typical parts of the long coastal section.

