

# Carboniferous of County Londonderry, Northern Ireland

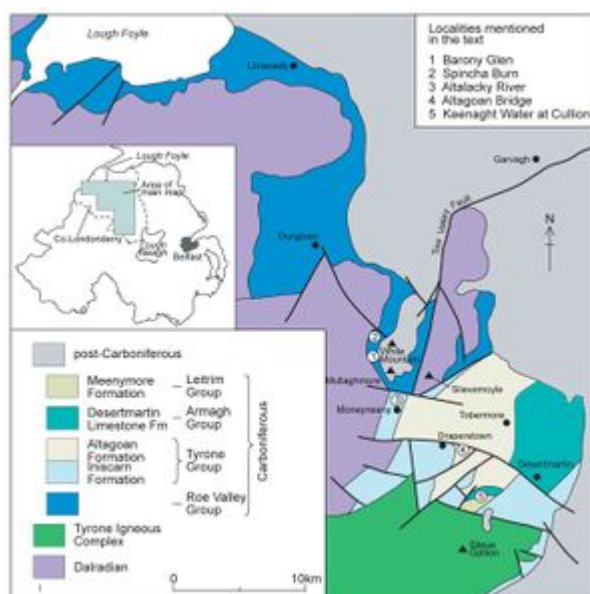
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Mitchell, W I (ed.). 2004. [The geology of Northern Ireland-our natural foundation.](#) Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, Belfast.

W I Mitchell

## Co. Londonderry



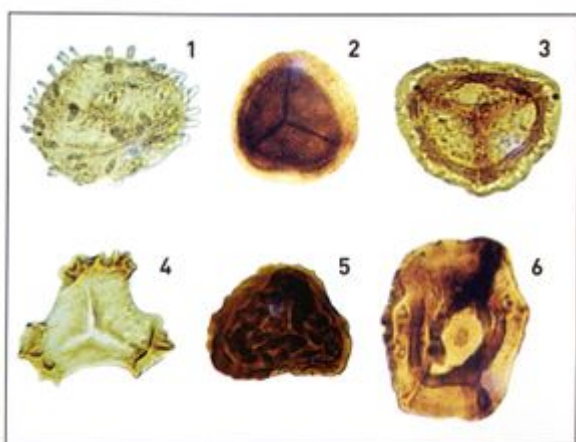
Geological map of the Carboniferous rocks in Co. Londonderry. (P947816)

	Formation	Lithology	Age
Leitrim Group	Meenymore (c. 20m)	Sandstone, brown; micritic limestone; mudstone, grey with sparse marine fauna of corals, brachiopods and nauffolds	late Asselian
Armagh Group	Desertmartin Limestone	Limestone, sandy and pebbly granstone; conglomerate, fawn to grey, small pebbles, fossiliferous	
Tyrone Group	Morneal Member (c. 250m)	Sandstone and siltstone; pale grey to greenish grey; mudstone, grey; micropores; laminated (cyanobacterial) limestone, evaporites	early Chadian
	Drumard Member (c. 300)	Sandstone, siltstone and mudstone, purplish red to brown, unfossiliferous; fring upward	
	Iniscarn (400m)	Bleccia, purplish red to brown, poorly sorted, angular clasts Conglomerate, purplish brown, coarse sand matrix, well rounded boulders to pebbles	
Roe Valley Group	Barony Glen (150-200m)	Upper section of mudstone, grey; micropores, laminated (cyanobacterial) limestone Lower section of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, purplish red to brown and greenish grey; calcinets, palaeosols	Courcayan
	Spincha Burn Conglomerate (25-100m)	Conglomerate, rounded pebbles only of vein quartz and green quartzite; sandstone, very coarse-grained, unfossiliferous	

Lithostratigraphy of the Carboniferous rocks in Co. Londonderry. (P947930)



The Barony Glen Formation in the stratotype. Barony Glen [C 731 016], 9 km WNW of Draperstown, Co. Londonderry. (P947997)



Fossils 1-6 Early Carboniferous miospores:  
 1-3: (Courcayan and early Chadian) from the Roe Valley and Tyrone groups in Co. Londonderry. 1 *Schopfites claviger* (x 275) 2 *Auroraspora macra* (x 250) 3 *Lycospora pusilla* (x 625) 4-6: (Brigantian-Pendleian) from the Kilskeery Group in the Fintona Block, Co. Tyrone: 4 *Tripartites vetustus* (x 350) 5 *Savitrisorites nux* (x 300) 6 *Reticulatisporites carnosus* (x 225)  
 (P948072)

The outcrop of the Roe Valley Group and the Tyrone Group is separated by the Tow Valley Fault ([P947816](#)).

The Roe Valley Group ([P947930](#)) crops out on the west side of White Mountain and Mullaghmore ([P947816](#)) and along the south side of Lough Foyle. The Spincha Burn Conglomerate Formation rests on the Dalradian and the lower part ([P947997](#)) of the succeeding Barony Glen Formation in Barony Glen [C 731 016] is dominated by calcrete, mudstone and siltstone, interpreted as pedogenic and lacustrine deposits. The upper part consists of grey mudstone and thin limestone deposited in a marginal marine environment. The Roe Valley Group contains the miospores *Schopfites claviger* and *Auroraspora macra*, of late Tournaisian (CM Biozone) age.

The outcrop of the Tyrone Group occurs in the Draperstown district. The basal Iniscarn Formation crops out in the Altalacky River ([P947816](#)). At its base [H 746 981], boulder conglomerates

representing half the Formation contain rounded clasts up to 2 m long. The upper part is exposed on Slievemoyle and consists of feldspathic breccias. It fines up into the succeeding Altagoan Formation with the Drumard and Mormeal members ([P947930](#)). The Mormeal Member, seen south of Altagoan Bridge [H 799 944], consists of mudstone and channelised sandstone <sup>[1]</sup>. It includes five evaporite beds up to 0.43 m thick with halite and gypsum or anhydrite now pseudomorphed by calcite <sup>[2]</sup>. Grey mudstone with a macrofauna of bivalves and ostracods also contains the miospores *Auroraspora macra*, *Schopfites claviger* and rare *Lycospora pusilla* (Fossil 3) indicating the basal Pu Biozone and an early Chadian age.

The local unconformity between the Tyrone and Armagh groups ([P947930](#)) is equivalent to 2000 m of early Chadian to late Asbian strata in Co. Fermanagh and south Co. Tyrone. Sandy limestone of the Desertmartin Limestone Formation contains corals and the late Asbian brachiopod *Gigantoproductus* cf. *semiglobosus* in the exposure at Cullion [H 813 909] ([P947816](#)). Exposures of the Meenymore Formation (Leitrim Group) occur some 40 0m to the south.

## References

- [↑](#) Geological Survey of Northern Ireland 1983. Cookstown, Northern Ireland Sheet 27. Solid Geology. 1:50 000. (Southampton: Ordnance Survey for the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland).
- [↑](#) Cameron, I B, and Old, R A. 1997. *Geology of the country around Cookstown, Co. Tyrone. Geological Sheet 27 (Cookstown)*. Geological Survey of Northern Ireland. Technical Report GSNI 97/7.

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