

# Slackdown Lava Member

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## Slackdown Lava Member (**SLLA**), Fintry-Touch Block, Carboniferous, Midland Valley of Scotland

Slackdown Lava Member is part of the [Clyde Plateau Volcanic Formation](#).

### Name

Previously known as the Basal Group (Francis et al., 1970)<sup>[1]</sup>.

### Lithology

The Slackdown Lava Member consists of a varied assemblage of dominant trachybasalt lavas, with plagioclase-macrophyric basalt lavas ('Markle' type) and plagioclase-microphyric basalt lavas ('Jedburgh' type). In crags north of Scout Head (see *Stratotype* below) a basaltic-trachyandesite (mugearite), or albitised trachybasalt lava, which is variably massive to platy-jointed, is overlain in succession by a thin and impersistent plagioclase-macrophyric basalt lava, a plagioclase-microphyric basalt lava, and a generally massive trachybasalt, transitional to plagioclase-microphyric basalt lava.

### Stratotype

The type area is in the northern Touch Hills, and the northern and north-eastern Gargunnock Hills, north-east of Glasgow (NS 6576 9125 to NS 7410 9372) (Francis et al., 1970)<sup>[1]</sup>. A reference section is provided by the crags north of Scout Head, northern Touch Hills (NS 7311 9352 to NS 7315 9340). Largely obscured by drift, it is 31 m thick. The lavas form a series of cliffs at the foot of the escarpment and the basal mugearite forms a particularly prominent and laterally extensive crag (Francis et al., 1970)<sup>[1]</sup>.

## Lower and upper boundaries

The basal basaltic-trachyandesite (mugearite) of the member unconformably overlies sedimentary rocks, including sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the [Clyde Sandstone Formation](#), of the [Inverclyde Group](#).

The Slackdown Lava Member is overlain, conformably or disconformably, by the [Baston Burn Lava Member](#). The lithological change is from trachybasalt to plagioclase-macrophyric basalt ('Markle' type), except in the north-western Gargunnoch Hills, where the uppermost Slackdown Lava Member is represented by plagioclase-microphyric basalt ('Jedburgh' type).

## Thickness

Between 30 and 79 m.

## Distribution and regional correlation

The member is restricted to the Fintry-Touch Block (Francis et al., 1970)<sup>[1]</sup> and specifically to the northern Touch Hills and the north-eastern Gargunnoch Hills. These rocks crop out east-north-eastwards, from the north of Lees Hill (NS 6576 9125) to the north-north-east, to the Baston Burn (NS 7410 9372).

## Age

Mid Visean (Arundian to Asbian).

## References

- ↑  <sup>[1]</sup> Francis, E H, Forsyth, I H, Read, W A, and Armstrong, M. 1970. The geology of the Stirling district. *Memoir of the Geological Survey of Great Britain*, Sheet 39 (Scotland)

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