



Cultra, Helen's Bay

Leader: Peter Millar

3rd July 2018



Once again on the BNFC second geology trip of 2018 we were fortunate to have a great sunny warm evening at the Cultra/Helen's Bay foreshore. It was led by one of our regular local geology leaders Peter Millar, a past Secretary and President of Belfast Geologists' Society. We had (around 25) members present

First we walked east along the coast towards Helen's Bay to see dykes in the *Lower Palaeozoic* rocks mostly Ordovician around 460 million years ago. We spent some time at a *lamprophyre dyke* which usually has a composition of *biotite*, *hornblende* and *feldspar minerals* (almost 400 million years old from the late Caledonian period) than most of the surrounding *Tertiary* dykes mainly *olivine basalt* or *dolerite* in composition which belong to the *Palaeogene* period (56 million years old).

We then retraced our steps west to the western exposures to see the Tertiary dykes of which there are many dotted along this coast. It was a reminder of the wider impact of volcanic activity millions of years ago on our coastline which has contributed to its rugged outlines and intervening bays.

