

5

Geology Hotspot

# Carlin Maggie



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LOMONDS



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To visit this strangely eroded outcrop on the upper west-facing slope of the Bishop Hill, start at Portmoak Parish Church car park (1) and take the sign posted route up the Bishop Hill. An alternative route can be taken from the car park at Holl Reservoir (2) via West Feal and the Clatteringwell Quarry, following a track that leads to the edge of the Bishop Hill.

The forebrae of the Bishop Hill is made of layers of sandstone and mudstone that were deposited during the Devonian and Carboniferous periods, 410-299 million years ago. The cliff face seen in the upper parts of the Bishop Hill and cliffs of the West Lomond is made of dolerite that was intruded as molten rock between the layers of sedimentary rocks about 307 million years ago.

The 10m high pillar known as Carlin Maggie (3) is an isolated outcrop of the dolerite sill. The lower part of the cliff was the site of an old quarry, but the pillar itself is believed to have been created by the natural erosion of the dolerite.

Local lore tells us that the witch - Carlin Maggie - was turned into stone in a contest with the Devil, never to be released until wind and weather set her free. Maggie lost her head in the late 1980s when the topmost stones fell off as a result of wind and frost action.

**Please do not remove anything from the site.**



**Terrain:** Long, steep, arduous slopes with paths that can often be muddy. There are self-closing and kissing gates on the way. Care should be taken on the descent back to the car park and when crossing the main road.



**strenuous**

**Distance:** 2.5 miles, 4km

**Time:** 2 hours

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**Scottish Outdoor Access Code**

While out enjoying the local countryside please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

For further information visit [www.livinglomonds.org.uk](http://www.livinglomonds.org.uk)