Origins of Rocks, Soils and Landforms

Mountaineering Ireland

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Rocks

The bedrock geology of the North of Ireland is complex and is affected by a variety of geological events. The Southern Uplands of Northern Ireland, therefore, include the main Sperrin Ridge and the Donegal Mountains. Rifting in Early Ordovician times led to the separation of Laurentia from Gondwana, and in the Late Carboniferous, the Catskill Mountains collided with the North Atlantic Ocean and formed the rock package known as the Northern Ireland Metamorphic Complex. The Sperrins, which include the Mourne Mountains, the Sperrin Mountains, and the Sperrin Volcanic Complex, are the most geographically varied area in Northern Ireland, and include a range of rock types such as sandstone and mudstone that formed between 360–300 million years old and were formed as the North Atlantic Ocean opened.

Glacial Landforms

Periglacial Landforms

Periglacial landforms are those found in areas where the annual mean temperature is below freezing. We can see glacial landforms in both the Mourne Mountains and the Sperrin Mountains. The Mourne Mountains are shaped by ice movement across the Errigal to the North-East, while the Sperrin Mountains are shaped by ice movement across the Sperrin to the North-West.

Peat

Periglacial landforms develop in association with permafrost (permanently frozen ground). We can see periglacial landforms in the Mourne Mountains and the Sperrin Mountains. The Mourne Mountains are shaped by ice movement across the Errigal to the North-East, while the Sperrin Mountains are shaped by ice movement across the Sperrin to the North-West.

Rocks

Druimlins

Druimlins are streamlined hills that form beneath fast flowing ice. They are often seen in the Sperrin Mountains and the Donegal Mountains. The Donegal Mountains are shaped by ice movement across the Sperrin to the North-West.

Pedogenic soils

Pedogenic soils develop from glacial outwash and periglacial settings. The most common soils are gleyed soils, which form in areas where the water table is close to the surface. These soils are characterized by a dark brown or black topsoil, which is rich in organic matter, and a pale, grey subsoil. Gleyed soils are often found in wet, low-lying areas, such as river valleys and floodplains.

Correries / Cirques

Correries or cirques are small, bowl-shaped depressions found in the steep slopes of mountains. They are formed by the retreat of a glacier or a stream, which cuts into the rock beneath the ice or stream. The cirque is then filled with glacial till and water, forming a lake. The cirque is then filled with glacial till and water, forming a lake. The cirque is then filled with glacial till and water, forming a lake.

Glacial troughs

Glacial troughs are long, narrow valleys with steep walls and a wide base. They are often referred to as glacial valleys and are formed in response to changes in climate. Glacial troughs are formed by the movement of glaciers, which carve out valleys in the underlying bedrock. Glacial troughs are often found in mountainous regions, such as the Alps or the Rocky Mountains.

Cittaslow

Cittaslow is a movement that aims to preserve the natural environment and protect the cultural heritage of cities. Cittaslow cities are characterized by their commitment to slowing down and appreciating the natural beauty of their surroundings. Cittaslow cities are aimed at preserving the natural environment and protecting the cultural heritage of cities. Cittaslow cities are characterized by their commitment to slowing down and appreciating the natural beauty of their surroundings.

Sols

Podzolic soils

Podzolic soils develop on sand and gravel. Podzolic soils are characterized by a distinct horizon, known as the B horizon, which is rich in organic matter. Podzolic soils are often found in areas where the climate is cold and humid, such as the boreal forests of Northern Europe.

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