

LAOIS - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Glebe Quarry		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH10 Devonian, IGH15 Economic Geology		
TOWNLAND(S)	Glebe		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Clonaslee		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	6		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	633000E 709245N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	54	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	15

Outline Site Description

An intermittently worked flagstone quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The quarry exposes Devonian rocks of the Clonaslee Member, comprising the upper part of the Cadamstown Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Devonian rocks which cover the Silurian rocks of the Slieve Bloom inlier are surprisingly poorly exposed in the hills and only the stream gorges and valleys such as the Silver River provide linear and narrow exposures of them. Therefore a larger expanse of well exposed rocks in three dimensions within a quarry is a valuable addition to the total picture of the Devonian rocks in Slieve Bloom.

The rocks exposed are sandstones of a coarse grained and flaggy nature, which makes them easy to quarry and flagstones are very useful for paving, walling and building. In the scale of exposure seen in a quarry like this, it is possible to see broader sedimentary structures that suggest these sediments formed in a levelled landscape under ephemeral flooding conditions. Their total thickness is estimated at between 65 and 105m. There are some conglomerates and some mud lenses within the sandstones.

Historical maps and references suggest that quarrying of flagstones has been a feature of the higher ground above Clonaslee for centuries, with many small excavations shown on the maps now overgrown.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

As a representative site for an important, but poorly exposed part of the geology of Slieve Bloom this quarry deserves to be a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

As a quarry it is not suitable for general promotion and is private land, so not accessible. If it is inactive or disused it would quickly become overgrown, so a modest degree of working would help keep faces accessible for any geological groups visiting with the landowner's permission in the future.



Panorama view of Glebe Quarry, looking towards the back face.



View into Glebe Quarry.



Inside Glebe Quarry.



Panorama view of Glebe Quarry, looking out from the back face.



A view of the back face of Glebe Quarry.

