

LAOIS - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Luggacurren Stream Section
Other names used for site	The Crooked River
IGH THEME	IGH3 Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology, IGH9 Carboniferous and Permian
TOWNLAND(S)	Luggacurren
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Stradbally
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	25
ITM CO-ORDINATES	658455E 688200N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	61 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 16

Outline Site Description

Two long stream sections with exposures in bed and banks of the Crooked River and a tributary, in a deep gorge.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The site exposes Namurian rocks of the Luggacurren Shale Formation and the lower part of the Killeshin Siltstone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This section of rocks has been studied in detail by several geologists over the years since first surveyed in 1814, by Sir Richard Griffith. Most recently in the 1980s Ken Higgs, working for the Geological Survey of Ireland, established a detailed biostratigraphy based on goniatites and bivalve fossils, together with spores and pollen microfossils (palynomorphs). His fossil collections are housed in the Geological Survey of Ireland, along with some of the earlier collections. Higgs defined four members of the Luggacurren Shale Formation in the stream section, with only three of them exposed in the south eastern stream section.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA

This is a well-studied, reasonably exposed, good representative section of the Namurian rocks in the Leinster Coalfield and is likely to be proposed for NHA status when the IGH3 or IGH9 themes are fully assessed on a national basis.

Management/promotion issues

The site is on private farmland and not suitable for general promotion. It is also very difficult to access due to deep vegetation even in summer when water levels are low in the stream. The study of such a section is the protracted work of a highly committed geologist and is not undertaken on a casual basis. It remains as a good reference section for future study or re-appraisal with new tools or data, but it is not an inviting section.



Luggacurren stream exposures.



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Luggacurren south eastern stream is in a gully to the left of this road.

