

CAVAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Moneycass Glebe
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH2 Precambrian to Devonian Palaeontology
TOWNLAND(S)	Moneycass Glebe
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Stradone
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	2
ITM CO-ORDINATES	654312E 804660N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	35
GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	8/9

Outline Site Description

This site is a heavily wooded and overgrown field with small quarried faces at the edges.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks here are mudstones of the late Ordovician Carrickatee Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The rock exposures around the margins of the field have yielded a very unusual collection of fossils. The fossils are mostly graptolites but they occur with a trilobite species that is only known from this locality. The combination of fossils is an important rarity for understanding the geology of the region, and dating the rocks in Cavan.

The graptolites of two biozones occur in succession, and a deep water trilobite, now classified as *Songxites cellulana* was washed in with a few other fossils of nautiloids and ostracods. In modern stratigraphical terminology, these are from the late Katian to Hirnantian Stages of the Upper Ordovician, formerly defined as Ashgill.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

The site is an important County Geological Site, and has already been proposed for designation as a geological NHA by the NPWS.

Management/promotion issues

The site is now strongly overgrown with vegetation and difficult to access. It is private land and not recommended for promotion. Any change in land use or clearance would be best conducted with a palaeontologist monitoring for more fossil material.



An overview of the site from the northeast. The tallest trees mark the southwestern limit of the site.



A view of the main southeastern exposure of rock, heavily vegetated.



