

CAVAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Swanlibar River
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH3 Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology
TOWNLAND(S)	Furnaceland, Hawkswood
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Swanlinbar
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	7
ITM CO-ORDINATES	619226E 827100N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	26 GSI 1:100,000 BEDROCK Sheet No. 7

Outline Site Description

This is a short stretch of river bed, where bedrock is often exposed.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The river bed is made up of horizontal layers (or beds) of Lower Carboniferous bedrock, most of which is limestone or shale belonging to the Benbulbin Shale Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The main feature is the profusion of numerous well-preserved fossils exposed in the upper bedding surface of the bedrock, typical of the Benbulbin Shale Formation. There are however many loose fossil-bearing cobbles in the river bed.

Some of the best preserved fossils include the solitary coral *Siphonophyllia benburbensis* but there are also easily visible scattered crinoid ossicles, and numerous brachiopods.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

This is one of the best localities to see Carboniferous fossils within County Cavan.

Management/promotion issues

This is an excellent site for accessing some prime examples of Carboniferous fossils, located within the boundary of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark. There is an interpretation panel adjacent to the site and a small amenity site including a children's play park and seating area.

