

## GALWAY CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Menlough Quarry</b>
Other names used for site	Anglingham Quarry
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH8 Lower Carboniferous, IGH15 Economic Geology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Mionlach (Menlough), Anglingham or Gortacallow</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Mionlach (Menlough)</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>529100E 730200N</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 45</b>	<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 14</b>
<b>GISCODE</b>	<b>GC004</b>

### Outline Site Description

A large, disused quarry on the south shore of Lough Corrib.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock consists of grey, clean limestones of the Lower Carboniferous Burren Formation. Historically, the quarry was famous for its Galway 'Black Marble'.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

In the nineteenth century, dimension stone was worked from two adjacent quarries, Menlough and Anglingham, both named after the townlands in which they were situated. Both were in fact adjacent, and separated by the townland boundary. The principal markets for the Menlough and Anglingham quarries were London, Liverpool, Bristol, and Glasgow.

At Menlough, 'black marble' was quarried from two main beds, with interbedded thin flaggy beds deemed suitable for headstones. In the nearby Anglingham quarry, three beds were quarried for 'black marble', one of which was known as the 12" London bed, so-named for being kept solely for the London market on account of its capability of being cut most economically. During its time as an active quarry, a tramway was used to transport stone to boats on the Lough Corrib shore, and thence to Galway City via the River Corrib.

Anglo United Development Ltd and Riofinex recorded fluorite crystals in calcite veins in these quarries (Geological Survey Ireland Open File data).

### Site Importance – County Geological Site

The site comprises long-established quarries which are noted on 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey maps. This is an important site owing to the extensive exposures of Burren Formation limestones and the quarry's historic role in past industrial endeavours in Galway.

### Management/promotion issues

As a large (c. 13 hectares), disused quarry, the site has the potential for development as a recreational or amenity site. Its impressive quarry faces were developed to the landholding limits. The quarry floor is flooded in parts, and has been used for rubble disposal in places. The site is an excellent location to observe the variable stratigraphy in the Burren Formation, where massive and thin limestone beds and clay layers can be traced horizontally for hundreds of metres along the quarry face.



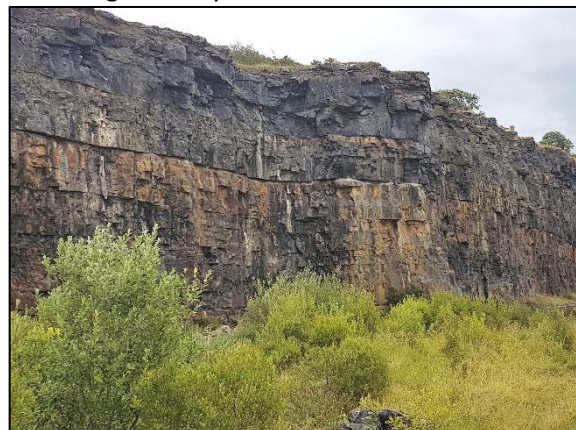
Quarry floor and quarry faces at Menlough Quarry.



Eastern quarry face at Menlough Quarry.



Gated entrance to Menlough Quarry.



Staining of the limestone beds from the interbedded clay wayboards.



