

GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Cregg Quarry
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH5 Precambrian, IGH15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	An Chreig (Cregg)
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Leitir Freaic (Letterfrack)
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	23
ITM CO-ORDINATES	471550E 753280N (centre of quarry)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 37	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 10

Outline Site Description

Disused quarry on hillside.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The Connemara Marble Formation is a distinctive unit of metamorphosed dolomite within the Dalradian succession of Connemara, with a complex history of alteration and segregation of mineral components that accounts for the range of green and other colours.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Cregg Quarry is a disused marble quarry in the central Twelve Bens that displays a wide range of marble types, including dolomite and rare magnesite rich beds, as well as a variety of green marbles. At the upper contact of the dolomitic marble, exposed by the east side of the road just south of the entrance, are a series of metasomatic diopside rock beds with thin interbedded quartzites. This quarry shows a wide range of marble and schist lithologies affected by a deformation episode (classed as D3 folding by geologists). Magnesite marble here is dark grey with serpentine pseudomorphs after an unusual platy morphology of olivine. This quarry was also particularly noted for a white variety of the Connemara Marble.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The quarry is a sufficiently well exposed example of the range of variation in Connemara marble to merit inclusion as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The quarry is private land and landowner permission should be sought for any geological research visit. The very remote location, the hazards of steep quarry faces and the very poor road condition to access the site are all good reasons why it is not suitable for promotion, even if the landowner was agreeable.



A view into Cregg Quarry from the north.



A view into Cregg Quarry from the northwest.



Left: A view into excavation at Cregg Quarry beside the access road and the disused shed.



Right: An overview of the access road into the quarry area over the near shoulder of the hill.

