

KILKENNY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Inistioge
Other names used for site	River Nore channels
IGH THEME:	IGH 7 (Quaternary)
TOWNLAND(S)	Numerous Townlands
NEAREST TOWN	Inistioge
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	32
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	264000 138000 = S 64 38
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	68 1/2 inch Sheet No. 19

Outline Site Description

A series of deeply incised channels along an 11 km long section of the River Nore.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Quaternary geomorphological features cutting into Lower to Middle Ordovician Schists.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This assemblage of 4 glacially eroded Nye channels around Inistioge comprises deeply incised valleys that cut into the bedrock of the surrounding hillsides along the banks of the glacially incised River Nore. These channels are as deep as 40m in some places. The formation of these channels is probably due to the movement of subglacial meltwater, which under high pressure formed deep conduits underneath the ice. When the overlying glacier melted it left steep sided channels which appear oversized when compared to the volume of water that flows through them today. This main channel section of the River Nore itself is also an example of a channel produced by glacial meltwaters and is therefore included with its tributary Nye channels.

Site Importance

This extensive site displays at least four main Nye channels that are a good example of geomorphological features produced by glacial meltwaters. These channels represent a window into Ireland's past when areas like Kilkenny were extensively covered by glacial ice sheets. These features are therefore recommended for County Geological Site status.

Management/promotion issues

Much of the land on which the channels are situated is privately owned (owner(s) unknown) with the exception of one in the townland of Cappagh (grid ref: 263000, 140000), which according to locals is a public walkway and in the past has been maintained by FAS. Access to these channels is generally along relatively quiet third class roads but care should be taken, with many of the channels lying in heavily wooded areas. As well as forestry and agriculture (grazing and arable) this site is also used for horse breeding and riding and is not suitable for general promotion without permission from the various landowners.



Above: A small stream along the base of one of the Nye channels. Note the small volume of water in the deep channel.
Right: Exposed schist outcrop of the Brownsford Member, cut into by subglacial meltwaters during the Quaternary Period.

Inistioge

