

LEITRIM - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Glenboy Cave
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst, IGH14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology
TOWNLAND(S)	Glenboy
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Manorhamilton
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	12
ITM CO-ORDINATES	592050E 837820N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 26	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 7
GISCODE LM014	

Outline Site Description

Glenboy Cave is a 37m-long cave through which the Scarden River flows, beneath the road through Glenboy village.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The cave at Glenboy runs through northerly dipping beds of Dartry Limestone Formation, of Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous) age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Glenboy cave is a 37m-long remnant of what was formerly a more extensive cave system, but which, through erosion and collapse, has largely developed into a shallow river gorge. The river passes over dipping beds in a waterfall a short distance south of the cave, then flows in a shallow, rock-walled gorge for about 100m, before entering a triangular cave mouth nearly 8m wide by 3.5m high. From the entrance the cave exit downstream can be seen.

At the downstream cave mouth, it is clear that the water actually flows eastward into a shallow pool to continue as the river, by-passing the cave mouth. The roof of the cave has some flowstone features but the shape of the cave appears to be influenced strongly by the dip and fracturing of the limestone beds. The natural roof of the cave over the river gorge provides a bridge for a local road that crosses the river above the cave.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Although not extensive nor remarkable, Glenboy Cave is an excellent example of the natural process of erosion and unroofing of shallow river caves to create gorges. The site deserves recognition as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The cave is on private land and is not suitable for significant promotion. However, the cave entrance is visible from the fence at the roadside to the north and a roadside signboard explaining the feature could be considered as an option in conjunction with the local community.



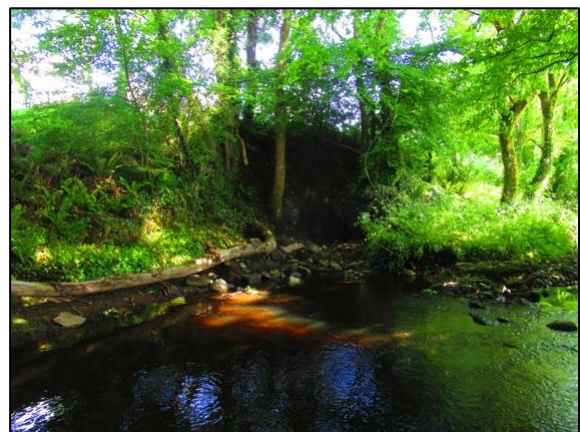
The southern mouth of Glenboy Cave.



The view through the cave, with daylight 37 m away, but with a very wide floor.



The view into north end of Glenboy Cave.



The view of the north end of Glenboy Cave.

