

## LEITRIM - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Larkfield and Meenymore</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH8 Lower Carboniferous</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Larkfield, Meenymore</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Manorhamilton</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>11, 12</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>591485E 834675N (Meenymore Gorge)</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 26</b>	<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 7</b>
<b>GISCODE LM020</b>	

### Outline Site Description

The site encompasses two stream gorges and gullies draining northwestward from the plateau of Boleybrack Mountain.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock succession exposed in the stream gullies spans the Dinantian-Namurian interval in the Carboniferous Period. The formations exposed and mapped within this site are part of the Leitrim Group. The Bellavalley Formation and Carraun Shale Formation are succeeded by the Dergvone Shale Formation, the Briscloonagh Sandstone Formation and, on the plateau, by the Lackagh Sandstone Formation, which completes the section.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Geologically, the site is a good representative section of the stratigraphy of the Lough Allen area, and specifically the Leitrim Group. The stratigraphy exposed in the streams effectively starts with the Dergvone Shale Formation, although the Bellavalley Formation and Carraun Shale Formation are present beneath the lower section of the streams. There is a lower Lagoon Flagstone Member to the Briscloonagh Sandstone Formation and the type section for the main formation is in the Larkfield stream, where 59m is exposed. Above this the Gowlaun Shale Formation is exposed and ascending onto the plateau from the steep stream gorges, the Lackagh Sandstone Formation is present but poorly exposed.

Both stream gorges are heavily overgrown, steep and difficult to access, and exposure, whilst better than in most parts of the district, is still poor and far from complete in sections. Consequently, whilst far from perfect it is one of the better representative sections of the stratigraphic sequence in the district, in rocks which generally readily weather and erode to leave no significant exposures.

### Site Importance – County Geological Site

The site merits County Geological Site status as representative and supports the possibly better sections in Stony River and at Thur Mountain, in providing some exposure of the stratigraphic sequence. These gullies have been very important historically in mapping the Carboniferous geology of the region in detail.

### Management/promotion issues

The site is private farmland or forestry or probable commonage on the upper sections and permission should be sought before accessing, but it is likely to remain of interest only to research geologists with strong commitment.



A view to the Larkfield stream gorge on the edge of the forestry.



A view of the upper section of the Meenymore stream from the plateau above Larkfield stream.



Waterfall and exposure in the Larkfield stream gorge.



One of the best exposures in the Meenymore stream section.



