

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Grangegeeth		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME:	IGH 2 (Precambrian to Devonian Palaeontology)		
TOWNLAND(S)	Grangegeeth		
NEAREST TOWN	Slane		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	14		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	295420 279350 = N 9542 7935		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	43	1/2 inch Sheet No.	13

Outline Site Description

An overgrown depression which may have been quarried or may be a natural head of stream gully and waterfall.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Ordovician fossiliferous sandstones.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Small rock exposures in a stream gully, that may once have been quarried, have a rich assemblage of marine fossil brachiopods (shellfish) and trilobites (arthropods) and other invertebrates. These are of Ordovician age, and are a key piece of evidence in understanding the geological development of the rocks in the Grangegeeth area. The Grangegeeth inlier (older rocks entirely surrounded by younger rocks) is thought to be the remnants of a volcanic island formed in the Iapetus Ocean, which once separated the two halves of Ireland. The biogeographical affinities of the faunas at Grangegeeth match those of the Scoto-Appalachian (i.e. American) side of the ocean. They contrast significantly with faunas of the adjacent Bellewstown inlier, which have Anglo-Welsh provincial affinities.

Site Importance

The fossils found here are important and the site has therefore been proposed as an NHA, as well for County Geological Site status in this report.

Management/promotion issues

This site is privately owned and is in agricultural usage. Any proposed changes to the site, including vegetation clearance or removal, should involve a palaeontologist (through the GSI).



A view from the west into the upper part of the old quarry. Brachiopod fossil moulds occur on bedding surfaces in the centre.

Grangegeeth

