

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Mullaghmore
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME:	IGH 7 (Quaternary)
TOWNLAND(S)	Mullaghmore, Ballyhoe
NEAREST TOWN	Drumconrath
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	3
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	285530 294163 = N 855 941
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	35 1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description

Gravel pits and agricultural land.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Quaternary glacial deposits showing a thrust block moraine, with deformed sands and gravels.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The site at Mullaghmore shows important glacial sediments with well exposed structural features. It is interpreted as a thrust block moraine, formed by localised ice oscillations. It records the push and deformation of a proglacial gravel feature during overriding by ice. The main section in the Mullaghmore disused aggregate quarry shows a series of overfolds around gravel 'cores' with fine deformational structures. The thrust block moraine is well exposed along three faces, giving a 3-dimensional view of the internal structure.

Site Importance

The site illustrates spectacular ice-thrust structures and marks a critical ice limit, which demonstrates that continual ice oscillations characterised the retreat of the ice sheet of the last glaciation, rather than regional ice movements. The feature will therefore be recommended as an NHA.

Management/promotion issues

The gravel pit is partially overgrown and the faces are continually collapsing, with the result that the section will slowly degrade. There is no dumping by local farmers at present. All of the features described lie on private agricultural land, mainly under pasture. Access to these areas is just off a third class road. Although all of the exposed pits within this locality need to be accessed through private land, most of the geomorphological landscape features are better seen from the roadside. It is recommended that general promotion is not suitable without first contacting the landowners.



Left: Exposed glacial material within the old Mullaghmore pit, showing 'cores' of boulders, gravels and thrust sediment at the top.
Right: Structures observed within one of the open pits, showing overfolded sands and gravels at the base of the section.

Mullaghmore

