

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Painestown Quarry	
Other names used for site		
IGH THEME:	IGH 8 (Lower Carboniferous)	
TOWNLAND(S)	Painestown	
NEAREST TOWN	Slane	
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	26	
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	295350 270000 = N 9535 7000	
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	43	1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description

A disused quarry now heavily vegetated.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Viséan) thin to medium bedded limestone and shale of the Loughshinny Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This disused quarry has cut into thinly bedded limestone and shale, which displays a series of angular, zig-zag folds called chevron folds. These occur when pressure is exerted on thinly bedded sequences of alternating rocks, where one rock type (limestone) is competent and the other (shale) is incompetent. These features are also found in the same rock formation along the coast at Loughshinny.

Site Importance

This is a spectacular and easily accessible example of chevron folds, which could make an excellent teaching locality. It complements the example of coastal geology at Loughshinny. It should become a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

This site is found just off a third class road and is on private agricultural land, which is occasionally used for grazing cattle. Access to the site is through a farm gate along the road. This is not suitable for general promotion without suitable arrangements being made with the landowner. Only one exposed face still remains within the old quarry as the rest of the site has been filled in. It is important to keep this last face exposed and if possible, relatively free of vegetation cover.



Left: Exposed quarry face displaying excellent examples of chevron folding.
Right: A closer look at the zig-zag shaped folds. The limbs of the folds usually form at a 45°- 60° angle, as seen here at Painestown.

Painestown Quarry

