

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Dunshaughlin
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME:	IGH 12 (Mesozoic and Cenozoic)
TOWNLAND(S)	
NEAREST TOWN	Dunshaughlin
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	297591 253243 = N 975 532
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	43 1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description

The site is unexposed at the surface.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

A basin shaped body of silica derived from decalcified limestone, undated but possibly formed from Tertiary weathering.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site is of interest in the Mesozoic and Cenozoic history of Ireland, since it is a very large depression over 1km² in area composed of silica. Detected primarily by geophysical techniques, the limited investigation shows that the deposit contains white silica, red-brown clays and some black lignite. Reynolds (1974) used geophysics to define the depression. He suggested that it was formed by in situ solution of the limestone by sulphuric acid released from breakdown of pyrite in the rock.

Site Importance

The site is a large scale enclosed limestone depression, now infilled with silica deposits, of similar magnitude to the Carran Depression in Clare, and although it is not actually exposed, it certainly merits recognition as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

This site is only known through geophysical surveys and from a limited drilling programme. There are no management issues. However, any planned developments that include ground investigations or excavations may provide a much more complete understanding of the deposit and GSI should be notified of any such works at the earliest stage. Such works may include a proposed railway line extension.



Above: Approximate limits of the infilled depression at Dunshaughlin.

Dunshaughlin

