

# MONAGHAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	Clontibret Stream
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	IGH6 Mineralogy; IGH 15 Economic Geology
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Tullybuck, Lisglassan
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	Clontibret
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	14
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	675431E 830135N
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	28
<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	8/9

## Outline Site Description

The site comprises a small wooded stream section and its banks on which the remains of two mine shafts are found.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks are Ordovician greywackes, sandstones and mudstones of the Ballygreany Formation, part of the Northern Belt of the Longford-Down inlier.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Antimony, in the form of stibnite ( $\text{Sb}_2\text{S}_3$ ), was apparently first recorded here in 1774, in thin (10cm-thick or less) quartz veins in the bed of the stream. The Mining Company of Ireland sank three shafts and drove short underground levels before abandoning the mine at a considerable loss in 1826. Significant exploration did not resume until the Mining Corporation of Ireland commenced work in 1956 and it demonstrated the presence of significant concentrations of gold in the mineralization. Subsequent exploration has focused on the gold potential of the area. The main ore minerals are stibnite, gold-bearing arsenopyrite and gold-bearing pyrite, which occur within thin quartz veins or in the enclosing wallrocks. The veins are structurally controlled, apparently related to the development of northnorthwest–southsoutheast-trending faults.

Recent exploration activity in the area has resulted in cutting back of tree growth, revealing the Tullybuck shaft on the west bank, its opening covered by branches, and its retaining wall. Traces of the Lisglassan shaft, which was capped in 1984, can be seen as a small depression on the east bank. The mineralization is exposed in outcrop in the stream bed close to the Tullybuck shaft.

## Site Importance – County Geological Site

The site deserves recognition as a CGS both because of the presence of stibnite, which led to the attempts to develop the country's only known antimony mine, and of gold which has sustained significant exploration efforts over the last 50 years that have resulted in the recognition of extensive zones of anomalous gold concentrations in the Ordovician rocks of the Longford-Down inlier, in Monaghan and adjacent counties.

## Management/promotion issues

The site is within or immediately adjacent the stream. Access is along the stream bed and/or across adjacent farmland. The banks of the stream are thickly wooded and in places quite steep. The site is thus not recommended for general access or promotion but will be of interest to those engaged in studying mine heritage or mineralogy.



Clontibret stream, view downstream from Tullybuck shaft.



Tullybuck shaft covered by branches (left); view upstream of exterior wall of Tullybuck shaft on left (west) bank of stream (right). Outcrop in stream strikes NE-SW.



Depression marking surface of Lisglassan shaft on right (east) bank of Clontibret stream (left).



