

## MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Bouris School</b>
Other names used for site	Bouris
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH2 Precambrian to Devonian Palaeontology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Glenbaun, Durlless, Gorteendarragh, Glencally</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Louisburgh</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>96, 97</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>487255E 778600N</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 37</b>	<b>GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 10,11</b>
<b>GIS Code MO016</b>	

### Outline Site Description

A remote area on a stretch of the road between Louisburgh and Drummin. The site comprises mainly sheep grazed pastures and is situated at the southern foothills of Croagh Patrick.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks at this site belong to the Bouris Formation of the Croagh Patrick succession of shallow marine Silurian (Llandovery; c. 443-433 million years ago) rocks. The 600m thick Bouris Formation comprises a variable series of rocks, including impure limestones, psammities, pelites and minor tuffs.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Scientific collection of fossils from the vicinity of Glenbaun and Bouris School area have been used to confirm the age of the Silurian Croagh Patrick succession. The age for the succession was confirmed by the identification of the brachiopod *Pentamerus oblongus*. This places rocks of the Croagh Patrick succession at an earlier Llandovery age than the Kilbride Formation of South Mayo (e.g. Finny and Kilbride area). The Bouris Formation is underlain by a thick accumulation of largely unfossiliferous shallow marine quartzites of the Creggaunbaun Formation (Silurian). A variety of corals, trilobites, graptolites, bryozoans and brachiopods have been identified in rocks of the Bouris Formation.

### Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

An important site that requires designation as a geological NHA, this site helps to provide an age for the Silurian rocks of the Croagh Patrick succession and in interpreting the Silurian history of South Mayo, which continues to be of significance to geologists.

### Management/promotion issues

Access to the site (grazing pasture lands) is somewhat inhibited by fencing and wire-locked gates. The site has few exposures of rock, most of which are very weathered. No specific site is definable. The site is not deemed suitable for public promotion. However its significance in the context of the fossil evidence providing an age for the rocks of the Croagh Patrick Succession warrants inclusion in any literature pertaining to the geological heritage of County Mayo.



View of the Glenbaun/Bouris area (green pastures middle and right) from Durless (Western Way stile). Clare Island is visible in the distance. Kinknock hill is to right, and Louisburgh is in the middle distance.



Sheep pastures at Glenbaun to the southeast of Bouris School.



Stream over Bouris Formation rocks at Glenbaun viewed looking SW towards Tangincartur (390m).



