

MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Burren (Interglacial)
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)	Burren; Lenanavea
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Castlebar
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	69
ITM CO-ORDINATES	513200E 797360N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO.31	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 6, 11
GIS Code MO021	

Outline Site Description

This site includes a stream section along which peat deposits dating from a temperate, interglacial stage are exposed, and are similar to those at nearby Derrynadivva.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The wood peat sediments are assigned a Late Gortian Interglacial (Middle Pleistocene) age, and are similar to the 'Gortian' type locality at Boleyneendorrish River, near Gort, Co. Galway.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site comprises an eroded low cliff-sided stream section (length ~1.5km) along the Clydagh River between Burren and Lenanavea townlands, along which glacial till deposits and interbedded organic materials are exposed. The material along the section consists primarily of a wood peat which has been disturbed by glacial rafting. The wood peat at the site is similar to that recorded at nearby Derrynadivva. It has been suggested that it represents a fragment of the late interglacial (post temperate) vegetation of upland heath at an exposed site. The site is most important as it provides a picture of late Gortian vegetational history and provides an insight into the palaeoenvironment of upland Ireland during the Gortian. The site has been compared with that at nearby Derrynadivva, which in turn has been compared to the important Gortian 'type locality' site at Boleyneendorrish River at Gort, Co. Galway. The sequences of deposits represent ice-rafted material contained within glacial deposits of mixed mud, sand and cobbles. Whilst it is difficult to provide a date for these important organic sediments, the biostratigraphy studies indicate that Gortian Interglacial sequences appear to belong to the Middle Pleistocene. The Gortian Interglacial is believed to be the equivalent of the Hoxnian Stage of Britain and the Holsteinian of Europe.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

The site is important as it provides a picture of late Gortian vegetational history and provides an insight into the palaeoenvironment of upland Ireland during the Gortian. This site requires certain designation as a geological NHA.

Management/promotion issues

Potential threats to this important site include drainage works, infilling of land, dumping and the alteration of watercourses proximal to the site. Because the important features at this site are relatively difficult to observe, this site is not suitable for public promotion.



Looking NW towards Croaghmoyle over the meandering course of the Clydagh River, flowing to left.



Looking SE over the meandering course of the Clydagh River, flowing towards forestry in distance (SE).



Glacial deposits (grey coloured) below recent peat deposits exposed on the eroded west bank of Clydagh River in the Burren townland.



Collapsed glacial sediments along west bank of Clydagh River.

