

MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Derrycraff, Erriff Valley
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Derrycraff
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Leeanuan; Westport
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	98c, 108a
ITM CO-ORDINATES	501870E 772820N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO.38	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 11
GIS Code MO041	

Outline Site Description

A small outcrop of bedrock in a riverbed to the west of a low bridge, amid grazing land.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Visean, c. 345-328 million years ago) age conglomerates, sandstones and carbonate rocks.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

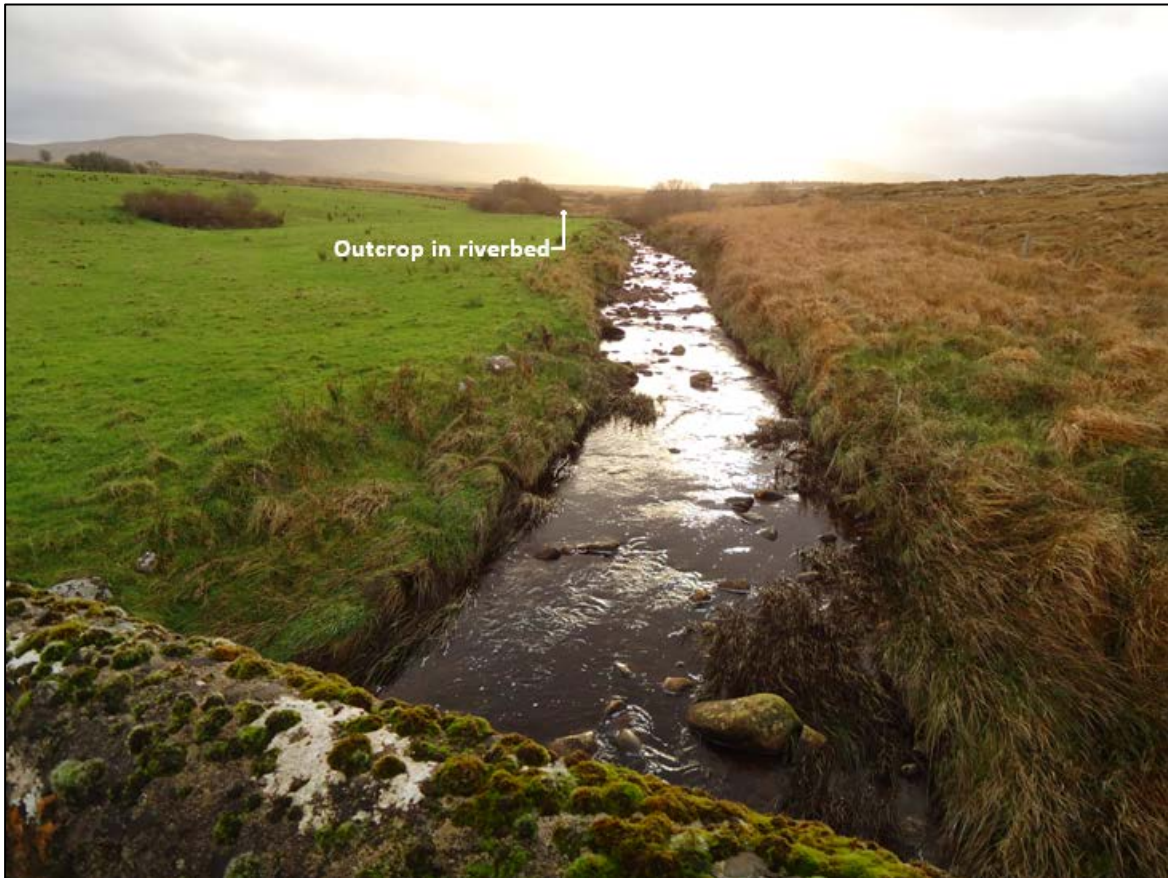
This small river exposure is one of the few in existence in the Erriff Valley that exhibits the transition from the Lower Carboniferous conglomerates and breccias to the more widespread carbonate rocks. The sedimentary lithologies represent deposition in shallow marine environments. The quartz-rich conglomerates and sandstones belong to the Castlebar River Formation. The younger carbonate rocks are understood to be of the Barney Formation. Both formations are Lower Carboniferous (Visean, 345-328 million years ago) in age.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

This is an important site in County Mayo, as it is one of the few locations where the transition from the Lower Carboniferous age conglomerates and breccias to the more widespread Carboniferous carbonates can be observed.

Management/promotion issues

The site is important within the context of the regional geology, but would not be of obvious significance to the general public. The site is accessed through private agricultural land, and is therefore not suitable for promotion to visitors without permission from landowners.



Derrycraff River viewed from the low bridge, looking SW. Outcrop of carbonates can be seen in the riverbed c. 200m SW of bridge, beside a tree lined riverbank.



Location of riverbed outcrop of Carboniferous carbonate rocks – outcrops occur as 'steps' over which river flows.



Derrycraff River viewed from low bridge at Derrycraff, looking NE. The riverbed is predominantly loose gravel and cobbles. No bedrock can be observed in the river bed for c. 500m downstream from bridge.

