

MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Lecanvey
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	Glencally; Carrowmacloughlin
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Louisburgh
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	97a
ITM CO-ORDINATES	489770E 780220N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 30	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NOS. 10, 11
GIS Code MO074	

Outline Site Description

Upland areas and rocky outcrops on the western slopes of Croagh Patrick.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Palaeozoic Silurian age quartzite bedrock of the Cregganbaun Quartzite Formation (Croagh Patrick Succession). Quartz vein and shear-hosted gold deposits.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Situated approximately 1km west of the summit of Croagh Patrick, the site (the Lecanvey Prospect) on the slopes of Croagh Patrick is perhaps the most significant mineralisation locality in County Mayo. Gold has been discovered in quartz veins within the Silurian quartzites and visible gold also occurs. The gold is relatively coarse grained, with a gold:silver (Au:Ag) ratio of 9:1. Several occurrences of gold mineralisation have been located along a 12km belt to the south of Clew Bay, of which this site is potentially the best. The Cregganbaun Quartzite Formation bedrock forms a prominent east-west trending ridge that culminates in the central part in the peak of Croagh Patrick (765m).

Stream panning surveys carried out by Tara Prospecting Ltd. in the 1980s led to the discovery of gold in south Mayo. Follow-up soil geochemistry and detailed prospecting led to the identification of several gold-bearing quartz veins in the Ordovician and Silurian rocks of South Mayo. The resultant surveys identified bedrock gold mineralisation of potentially economic grade at several locations in South Mayo.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

The site is possibly the most significant gold mineralisation locality in County Mayo, and one of the most important in the country. It is recommended for geological NHA designation. This is a key site located with the larger Croagh Patrick site that is also recommended as a geological NHA.

Management/promotion issues

This site is situated on Croagh Patrick, a major visitor attraction. Promotion of the metallurgical and overall geological heritage of the site, and the region (Clew Bay, South Mayo) should be encouraged at the Croagh Patrick visitor information facility. This is a key site located within the larger Croagh Patrick site (IGH7 Quaternary; IGH14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology; IGH4 Cambrian–Silurian; IGH11 Igneous Intrusions and IGH6 Mineralogy).



View of northwestern flanks of Croagh Patrick from Old Head. Lecanvey Gold Prospect is on upper west slopes of mountain.



View of southwestern flanks of Croagh Patrick. Lecanvey Gold Prospect is on upper west slopes of mountain.

