

NORTH DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Quigley's Point (Cabry River)
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	Cabry, Carrowkeel, Gortanny, Magheralahan, Meenavanaghan
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Quigley's Point
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	30, 31
ITM CO-ORDINATES	651440E 931310N (R238 bridge over Cabry River)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 3	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 1
GIS Code ND004	

Outline Site Description

A meandering river channel oriented roughly northwest-southeast, cutting into a deep gully along the lower river course, emptying into Lough Foyle at Quigley's Point. The river drains the valley between Leamacrossan Bridge (Cross townland) and Quigley's Point.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Gold has been identified in alluvial sediments in at least two locations along the river. The Cabry River predominantly flows over Dalradian Supergroup bedrock (metamorphic grits and schist). The river channel is cut through substantial deposits of glacial debris in its lower course and even cuts into bedrock. Over the final 500m, the river flows over Carboniferous age bedrock before emptying into Lough Foyle at a fan-shaped delta-type feature.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Alluvial gold has been identified in samples collected from two sites along the Cabry River approximately 1km apart (Cabry River Lower, approximately 6514430E 931300N; and Cabry River Upper, approximately 650570E 931630N). Gravel bars on the lower river course have been found to contain abundant fine gold, making this an area of great interest as an exploration target.

Some bedrock gold has been reported from locations nearby the site. Evidence suggests that the alluvial gold in the Cabry River originates in, and was eroded from, a local gold mineralisation source, probably in the vicinity of the Cabry River Upper sampling site (650570E 931630N). The mineral inclusion suite of the Cabry River gold contains gold (Au), silver (Ag), lead (Pb), nickel (Ni) and bismuth-telluride (Bi_2Te_3), together with galena, pyrite and chalcopyrite. (It has been suggested that gold from localities in the Sperrins Mountains was transported to the Cabry River area by glacial action).

The occurrence of alluvial gold in the Cabry River, "*downstream from the Glentogher locality*", was reported in the Derry Journal, on 29th July, 1935.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA

This is an important County Geological Site owing to the recorded occurrence of alluvial gold, and merits designation as a NHA.

Management/promotion issues

Much of the lower course of the river is inaccessible, occupying the floor of a deep, vegetated, remote gorge. The extraction of sediments from the riverbed should be discouraged. The characteristics of the site, although recognized as being of NHA merit, are not deemed to be suitable for public promotion in the form of public signage. However any literature or education material pertaining to the geology or natural history of the local area should reference the flecks of precious metal (no matter how rare) hidden in the riverbed.



Cabry River - view downstream (southeast) at three-arch stone road bridge at Carrowkeel.



Gravel riverbed in Cabry River, on northwest side of stone road bridge at Carrowkeel.

