

# OFFALY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

|                                   |   |  |           |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------|
| <b>NAME OF SITE</b>               | <b>Camcor Forest Quarry</b>                           |  |           |
| Other names used for site         |   |  |           |
| <b>IGH THEME</b>                  | <b>IGH4 Cambrian-Silurian</b>                         |  |           |
| <b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>                | <b>Castletown and Glinsk</b>                          |  |           |
| <b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>       | <b>Kinnitty</b>                                       |  |           |
| <b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>        | <b>37</b>   |  |           |
| <b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>           | <b>621120E 704600N (Camcor Forest Entrance, R440)</b> |  |           |
| <b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b> | <b>54</b>   | <b>GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 Sheet No.</b> | <b>15</b> |

## **Outline Site Description**

A small and heavily overgrown quarry in woodland, approximately 50m from the roadside.

## **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

The rocks exposed are of the Silurian Capard Formation, which underlies all of Slieve Bloom. The graptolite fossils recovered from these siltstones define the rocks as of Wenlock age, within the Silurian Period.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The rather uniform siltstones of the Capard Formation underlie all 13 of the inliers of Silurian rocks within the Slieve Bloom Mountains. Inlier is a geological term which is shorthand for an area of older rocks entirely surrounded by younger rocks. Slieve Bloom itself is one of a number of Silurian inliers in the Midlands of Ireland, where Silurian and Devonian rocks in uplands are surrounded by Carboniferous rocks in the lowlands. To date such inliers we generally require fossil evidence and this site has provided the best of very rare fossil evidence in Slieve Bloom.

Graptolites are an extinct group of organisms, but in the Silurian they were prolific in the oceans and widespread. They also evolved rapidly so they provide a very good biostratigraphical indicator of the age of the rocks. In the Camcor Forest Quarry, an assemblage of only 3 species is enough to assign them to the *riccartonensis* Biozone of the Wenlock Period. This is approximately in the middle of the Silurian Period and is from around 435 million years ago. The graptolite species found here are *Monograptus priodon*, *Monoclimacis vomerina* and *Pristiograptus meneghini*.

## **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

This site is recommended as a County Geological Site in Offaly, providing the best evidence of the age of the oldest, Silurian rocks in Slieve Bloom.

## **Management/promotion issues**

The quarry is heavily overgrown, mainly with grass, but vegetation could easily be cleared if required for a geological research project. Appropriate, commercial forestry clear felling of the trees in the immediate area may reveal much more of interest. For a potential fossil hunter, there are also small exposures in adjacent streams and in the forest tracks that have been recently disturbed, and roadside cuttings in the vicinity, although the large one beside the quarry has become totally vegetated.



The quarry is quite small and shallow, but now heavily overgrown..



There is very limited exposure of the siltstone, loose in a patch and in a face on the side.

