

# SLIGO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Glencarbury Barite Mine</b>		
Other names used for site	Gleniff Mine		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>			
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	Grange		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	6		
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	173200 345300 = G 732 345		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	16	<b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b>	7

## Outline Site Description

Abandoned mine site. Almost vertical barite vein through Slievemore.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Carboniferous (Asbian) limestone hosting a younger (late Carboniferous) barite vein.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

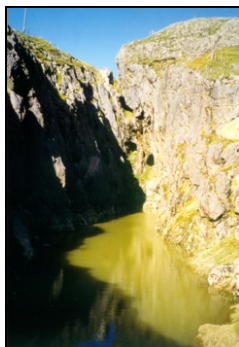
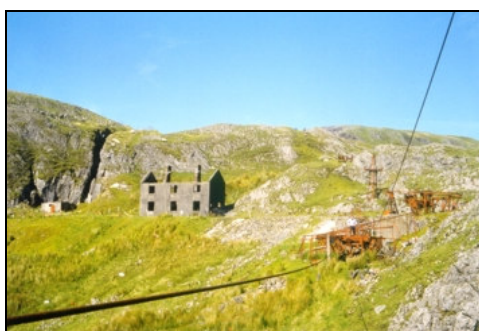
The barite vein deposit at this site is the only deposit of its type known in Ireland. The vein cuts through lower Carboniferous (Asbian) limestone of the Dartry and Glencar Formations. These limestones are **jointed** and **faulted** and have been subjected to intense **karstification** (a very deep pothole named Barytes Pot intersects the vein). The almost vertical vein cutting steeply through the Slievemore mud-mound has a north-northwest orientation and is approximately 3m wide and 2.5km long. It consists of pink/white coloured barite and minor amounts of the minerals calcite and chalcopryrite (or fool's gold). The vein is centred along a **fault zone**, which moved periodically over a prolonged period of time. The barite vein clearly cuts through rocks of Asbian age and is therefore younger than 335Ma. No precise upper age limit has been determined but as deformation of the vein is thought to have occurred during the late Carboniferous it has been assumed that the vein can be no younger than late Carboniferous. Barite extracted from Glencarbury mine between 1894 and 1979 was used in the paint industry and especially to add weight to drilling fluids in the oil industry. Both extensive underground workings and open cast extraction took place and buildings and machinery of mining heritage interest remain on site.

## Site Importance

This site is expected to be part of a large multi-interest geological NHA comprising Benbulbin and the Truskmore Plateau (including parts in Leitrim) once IGH programme work is completed and final recommendations are made.

## Management/promotion issues

Access to parts of the valley are known to be problematic for walkers, but members of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland have been able to visit freely. No active geological promotion to visitors of Gleniff, other than of driving tour type, is advisable without some resolution of this issue.



Left. The worked out vein is clearly visible to the left of the ruin of the former miner's hostel. Right: an opencast worked area ends in underground mine tunnels.

# Glencarbury Barite Mine

