

SLIGO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Gleniff
Other names used for site	
TOWNLAND(S)	
NEAREST TOWN	Grange
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	6
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	173000 346500 = G 730 465
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	16 1/2 inch Sheet No. 7

Outline Site Description

Rock exposures in an incised valley.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Asbian) limestones, shales and exceptional fauna.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Exposures of the Benbulbin Shale, Glencar Limestone, the [mudbank](#) facies of the Dartry Limestone and a large “raft” of the Meenymore Formation (let down by solution) are to be found in the deeply incised Gleniff Valley (Hubbard and Sheridan 1965). This area is the type locality for the Glencar Limestone and Dartry Limestone. The Glencar Formation consists of alternating [calcareous](#) shales and limestones, which are [bioturbated](#). Locally abundant fauna can be found here with some of the corals suggesting an Asbian age. The Dartry Limestone Formation in the area belongs to the mudbank facies – these mudbank limestones occur as mounds.

The large “raft” of Meenymore Formation contains an exceptional fauna including brachiopods, bryozoans, rugose coral, bivalves, gastropods, nautiloids, goniatites, trilobites, ostracods and echinoids.

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. The boundary of the site shown here is illustrative of the best area to see the stratigraphy and fossiliferous rocks but is not exclusive.

Management/promotion issues

Long-standing access and other issues in this valley make it problematic to promote the geology other than as visible from the Gleniff horseshoe public road at present. In general, access is an issue for hill walkers but individual or small groups of geologists seeking permission may find local landowners willing to grant permission.



The view into the south western corner of the Gleniff valley illustrating the clear division of mudbank Dartry Limestone Formation cliffs on top of bedded Glencar Limestone Formation and older units.

Gleniff

