

TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

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| NAME OF SITE | Owenbeg Moraines |
| Other names used for site | Upperchurch moraines |
| IGH THEME | IGH7 Quaternary |
| TOWNLAND(S) | Graniera, Shevry, Curraghnatinny, Curraghduff, Roan, Knockmehill, Gortnaskehy, Ballyboy, Athshanboe |
| NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE | Upperchurch |
| SIX INCH MAP NUMBER | 39, 40 |
| ITM CO-ORDINATES | 595475E 658780N |
| 1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER | 59, 66 |
| GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. | 18 |

Outline Site Description

These features form a series of cross-valley moraines, comprised of till, in the Owenbeg Valley between Milestone and Upperchurch.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The moraines are Quaternary in age, and formed during deglaciation and ice-retreat episodes at the end of the last Ice Age. The landscape is underlain by Silurian greywackes of the Hollyford Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The features comprise a series of well-defined cross-valley ridges and hollows across the head of the Owenbeg Valley near Milestone and further east along the valley at Shevry and Ballyboy. The features represent fine examples of cross-valley moraines, with the westernmost one at Milestone exhibiting the characteristic bow-shaped ridge, concave to the east. Comprised of till, the moraines record the local westward retreat of ice along the Owenbeg Valley. A section of till is exposed along the minor road leading south-southwest from Anglesea road. Holocene peat deposits drape the edges of many of the features today.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The moraines represent well-preserved examples of cross-valley depositional glacial landforms in this hilly terrain in Tipperary. As a County Geological Site, the features are important to the understanding of the geomorphology and glacial history of the region.

Management/promotion issues

Quarrying of sand and gravel is a major threat to the moraines, and should not be permitted. The features are of interest to researchers and student groups, however they are of significant public interest.



Moraine terrain at Graniera townland, view north toward hills north of Anglesea Road (R497).



Moraine sands exposed in roadside excavations on the minor road leading south-southwest from Anglesea Road (R497).

