

TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Rear Cross Moraines		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary		
TOWNLAND(S)	Reardnogy More, Coonmore, Bournadomeeny, Goulmore		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Cappamore		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	8		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	585090E 659340N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	66	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	18

Outline Site Description

The features comprise a set of cross-valley moraines, marking ice recession along a glacial valley within the Slieve Felim mountains.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The moraines formed during the deglaciation and ice-retreat episodes that occurred at the end of Pleistocene. The glacial landforms (moraines) and tills are underlain by Silurian greywackes of the Hollyford Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The features comprise a series of well-defined cross-valley moraines on hilly terrain to the east of Rear Cross village. The well-defined depositional ridges are up to 10 m high, and are comprised of sands and gravels, with well-drained tills also occurring within the ridges. Ribbed moraines form in a subglacial position across the ice flow, and often exhibit a bow-shaped form. The northeastern-most moraine is a fine example of a bow-shaped ridge, oriented northwest-southeast and over 1 km long. Although it is difficult to observe in the field owing to forest cover, the characteristic ribbed moraine landform can be appreciated on aerial photography (southwest corner of Goulmore townland). These features collectively record the local retreat of ice within Slieve Felim along the valley adjacent to Rear Cross.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The features are well-defined moraines and constitute good examples of cross-valley depositional features in this upland terrain in west 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 would not necessarily be of major public interest.



Moraine terrain at Reardnogy More townland. View south-southwest towards Cullaun (460 m) hill. Quarry visible on hillside.



Sand and gravels exposed in disused quarry pit at Baurnadomeeny. View southwest towards Cullaun (460 m) hill.

