WICKLOW – COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	**Glen Ding**
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	**IGH7 Quaternary**
TOWNLAND(S)	**Deerpark (Wicklow)**
	Athgarret, Newtownpark (Kildare)
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	**Blessington**
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	**5**
ITM CO-ORDINATES	**696260E 715600N (centre of channel)**
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	**56 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 16**

Outline Site Description
Glen Ding comprises a deep channel that was formed by meltwater erosion on the northwestern flank of the Wicklow Mountains. The channel is oriented generally northeast–southwest, and extends for a distance of just over 1 kilometre.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type,
The feature is formed in an area of bedrock outcrop and subcrop and bedrock outcrops along the channel side at the northwest. The feature was etched out by meltwater during deglaciation at the end of the last Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago.

The bedrock in the locality is dominated by greywacke of Silurian age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
Glen Ding is up to 50m deep and has a U-shaped profile, typical of meltwater channels. The base of the channel is dry, although a shallow drainage ditch has been dug along much of the southern portion to channel excess surface water during heavy rainfall. The channel is curved at the southern end, opening up into an area of deep glacial sediments.

Glen Ding probably formed following the deposition of the majority of the Blessington Delta Complex into Glacial Lake Blessington, prior to full withdrawal of glacial ice from the area. The highest point of the channel is at the northern end, which suggests that it was an overflow channel rather than a tunnel valley, at least in its final stages of development. The channel seems to have been the final one opened up while the Blessington Delta was deposited, just before ice finally retreated from the area. However, its exact position in the sequence in the development of the Blessington Delta is still uncertain.

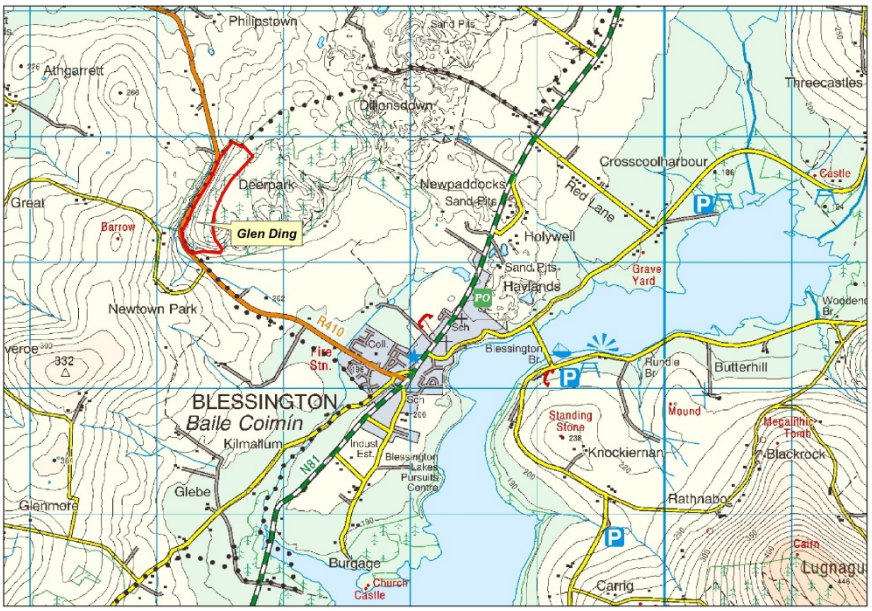
Sands and gravels a few metres thick cover the southeastern shoulder of the channel. As well as this, roche moutonnees are present where the ground rises beyond the glen to the west.

Site Importance – County Geological Site
This is a site with some teaching potential on glacial meltwater erosion, as the feature is accessible, quite spectacular, and can be viewed from the road running through it.

Management/promotion issues
The location of the channel with the R410 road passing through it means it is easily accessible, although the flanks are located presumably in private ownership. However, there is no parking in the centre of the channel and it is difficult to stop safely on the road. Much of the site is also very steep and heavily wooded making access difficult. Not suitable for general promotion without permission from the landowner and a safe access point.

Glen Ding, viewed from the central portion and looking southeast.

Looking northeast into Glen Ding; see the lorry passing through the channel for scale.


Glen Ding
BLESSINGTON
Baile Coimín
Philipstown
Athgarrett
Dillonsdown
Threecastles
Crosscoolharbour
Deerpark
Newpaddocks
Sand Pits
Red Lane
Great
Barrow
Holywell
Grave Yard
Haylands
Newtown Park
R410
Fire Stn
Blessington Br.
Butterhill
Rundale Br
Standing Stone
Mound
Megalithic Tomb
Knockiernan
Blackrock
Kilmallum
Glebe
Glenmore
N81
Rathnabo
Burgage
Church
Castle
Carrig
Lugnagu
Cairn


Glen Ding
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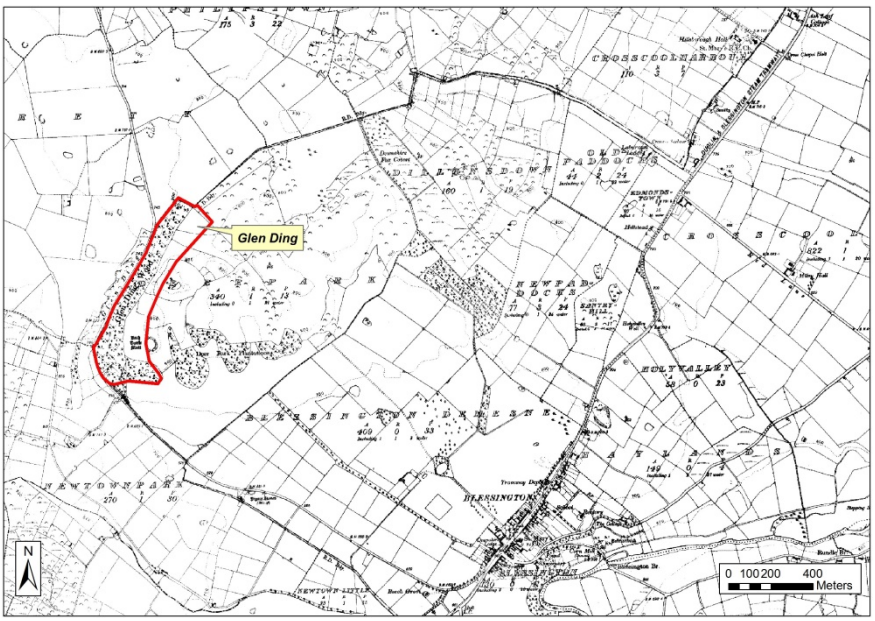
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