

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Altmush Stream		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME:	IGH 8, 9 (Lower Carboniferous, Upper Carboniferous)		
TOWNLAND(S)	Altmush		
NEAREST TOWN	Nobber		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	5		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	278770 286830 = N 7877 8683		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	35	1/2 inch Sheet No.	13

Outline Site Description

Natural rock outcrops along the banks of a stream over a distance of 1.5km.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Viséan) to Upper Carboniferous (Namurian) limestone and shale of the Fingal Group and Ardagh Shale Formation respectively.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The small stream at Altmush has cut into the surrounding bedrock forming a steep sided channel and exposing long, continuous sections of dark grey limestone and black shale. The rocks here are generally thin to medium bedded and shallowly dipping at about 25°-30°. The limestone and shale, although mostly fresh, in places show several stages of mechanical weathering. Like most areas in County Meath the exposed rocks in this stream are heavily overlain by a blanket of glacial deposits.

Site Importance

Natural well exposed outcrops such as this stream section are rare especially where they provide a continuous section. They should be considered important on a county level as they can be used by earth scientists as teaching localities and for mapping purposes.

Management/promotion issues

Access to this site is difficult as it mostly lies along steep banks and is in many places highly vegetated. The land is used for agricultural purposes (mainly cattle grazing) and therefore this site is not suitable for general promotion but may be used for further scientific research, with landowner permission.



Left: Thin bedded shallowly dipping black shale of the Fingal Group found within the stream at Altmush.
Right: A good representative image of the valley in which this stream and its outcrops lie.

Altmush Stream

