The Roadside Geology of the Dingle Peninsula

Aois an Oighir ag Loch an Pheidléara
The Ice Age at Pedler's Lake

Le dhá mhilliún bliain anuas, bhí roinnt tréimhsí éagsúla oighir i nÉirinn. I gCorca Dhuibhne, is ar an dtaobh thoir thuaidh de na cnoic is mó a bhailíodh an t oighear. Ghearradh sé amach comanna ansúd a sholáthraíodh oighear do na sruthanna oighir a bhíodh sna gleannta. Is istigh i gcom tipiciúil atá Loch an Pheidléara Ionnaithe.

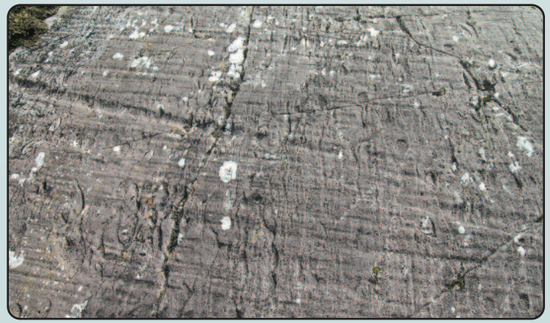
During the last 2 million years Ireland has been subjected to various glacial periods. On the Dingle Peninsula, ice collected mainly on the north-east sides of mountains. There it produced deepened corries (cwm, cirques) which fed ice to valley glaciers. Pedler's Lake is in a typical corrie.

Loch an Pheidléara i gcom a bhí tráth dá raibh lán d'oighear, a ritheadh isteach i sruth oighir na hAbhann Móire.

Pedler's Lake is a glacial corrie that was once full of ice that fed the Owenmore Valley glacier.

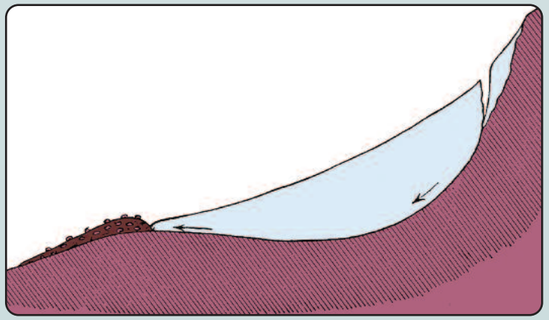
Béal an choma, le liopa ardaithe go mbíodh an t oighear ag imeacht thairis, agus paistí de charraigeacha stríocacha.

Front edge of the corrie showing raised lip over which the ice flowed, and patches of scriated rock.



Stríocaí ar an Sean-chloch Dhearg Ghainimhe; is clocha san oighear a ghearr na stríocaí sin do réir mar a ghluaiseadh sé ón gcom amach.

Striations on the Old Red Sandstone produced by stones in the ice as it flowed from the corrie.



Trasghearradh trí chom atá lán d'oighear. Uaireanta fágtar smionagar na gcloch (an moiréan) i mbéal an choma.

Cross-section through a corrie filled with ice. Rock debris (moraine) may be left at the corrie lip.

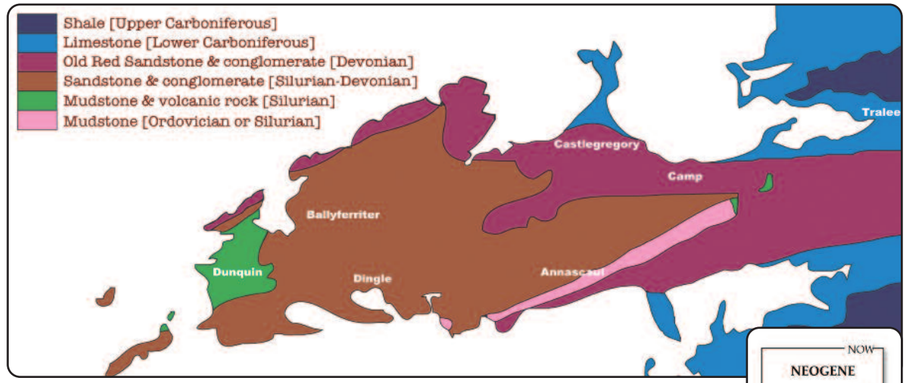
Is sa bhliain 1837 a dúirt Louis Agassiz, geolaí ón Eilbhéis, don gcéad uair gurb amhlaidh a bhí oighear luite anuas ar fhormhór thuaisceart na hEorpa tráth dá raibh. Is ag Loch an Pheidleára sa bhliain 1848 a fuaireadh fianaise i nÉirinn ar Aois an Oighir don gcéad uair; is é John Ball (1818-89), státseirbhíseach agus dreapadóir cnoc a rugadh i mBaile Átha Cliath, a aimsigh é.

In 1837 the Swiss geologist Louis Agassiz said for the first time that ice formerly covered much of Northern Europe. The first evidence in Ireland for the Ice Age was discovered in 1848 at Pedler's Lake by John Ball (1818-89) a Dublin-born civil servant and mountaineer.

John Ball agus an fhianaise ba thúisce ar Aois an Oighir i nÉirinn.

John Ball and the first evidence of the Ice Age in Ireland

Dáileadh na gcomanna i gCorca Dhuibhne
Geological History of the Dingle Peninsula



Le linn thréimhse an Ordaivísigh agus tréimhse an tSiolúraigh, is laisteas de mheánchiorcal an domhain a bhí Éire, faoi bhun uisce na farraige idir dhá mhór-roinn talún. Bhí pluda agus gaineamh á leagadh síos ann, gur deineadh díobh na carraigeacha atá le feiscint anois gairid d'Abhainn an Scáil. Le linn an tSiolúraigh, bhí bolcáin ag pléascadh leis an laibhe agus leis an luaithreach atá le fáil inniu ag Ceann Sratha. Théadh ainmhithe i ngreim sa dríodar agus sa phludaigh agus tá siad le feiscint inniu ann mar iontaisithe nó fosailí gairid do Dhún Chaoin agus ar Chnoc Chathair Chonraoi. Dríodar gainimhe a leagadh síos ina dhiaidh sin a chruthaigh na clocha gainimhe i n-aice leis an nDaingean agus ag Ceann Sléibhe.

Faoi thréimhse an Deavónaigh, bhí an fharraige dúnta ar fad, rud a chruthaigh mór-roinn mhór talún le fásaigh ann. Deineadh Sean-chloch Dhearg Ghainimhe den ngainimh, mar atá i ndrom Shliabh Mis, agus den ndríodar garbh, deineadh na carraigeacha ar a dtugtar comhcheirtleáin, atá le feiscint inniu ag Loch Slat agus ag Inse.

Ag tús an tréimhse Carbónmhar, bhí an talamh faoi bhun farraige tanaí trópaiceach agus bhí an coiréal agus an t-iasc sliogánach ag maireachtaint go ráthmhar ann. Tá a rian súd caomhnaithe sna clocha aoil sna Machairí.

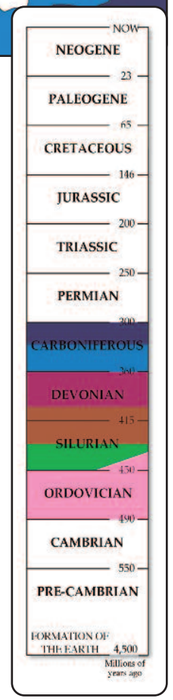
Le dhá mhilliún bliain anuas go dtí deich míle bliain ó shin, bhíodh comanna á gcruthú ar thaobh na gcnoc ag an oighear; is minic a bhíonn locha iontu inniu. Ritheadh sruth an oighir le fánaidh trí na gleannta, agus do réir mar a leaghadar, leagadar síos cré na mbollán le mórán sórtanna cloch tríd.

During the Ordovician and Silurian Ireland was south of the equator, and under an ocean between two continents. Mud and sand deposited into it eventually became the rocks seen near Annascaul. In the Silurian, volcanic islands erupted lavas and ash now found at Clogher Head. Muddy sediments trapped animals today preserved as fossils near Dunquin and on Caherconree Mountain. Younger, sandy sediments produced the sandstones near Dingle and Slea Head.

By the Devonian, the ocean had disappeared, forming a large continent with deserts. The sand formed Old Red Sandstone of the backbone of the Slieve Mish Mountains, while coarser sediments produced rocks called conglomerates, seen now at Lough Slat and at Inch.

At the beginning of the Carboniferous period the land was flooded by shallow tropical seas where shellfish and corals thrived. These are preserved in the limestones on the Magharees.

During the last 2 million years to 10,000 years ago, ice on mountainsides formed depressions called corries, many of which now contain lakes. Glaciers moved downslope along river valleys, and when they melted boulder clay containing many different rock types was deposited.



Radharc ó thuaidh ar an gcom lastuaidh d'Abhainn an Scáil, mar a bhfuil Loch Abhainn an Scáil anois. Greanadh adhmaid ón 19ú haois de chuid George Du Noyer (le caoinchead Shuirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta na hÉireann).

View northwards towards the corrie north of Annascaul where Annascaul Lake is now located. 19th century woodcut by George Du Noyer (courtesy of the Geological Survey of Ireland).