

CAVAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Dromod Spa Well
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH16 Hydrogeology
TOWNLAND(S)	Drumod Glebe
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Swanlinbar
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	7
ITM CO-ORDINATES	620025E 826607N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	26
	GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 7

Outline Site Description

This is a small natural spring, at the side of a minor road, that has been enclosed by a walled structure.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The Spa Well is a post-glacial (i.e. <10,000 years old) development of hydrogeology. The local bedrock is of Lower Carboniferous age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Spa Well is a hydrogeological phenomenon, where groundwater, which has been suffused with sulphurous minerals, rises naturally from the limestone bedrock. This typically occurs where limestone rocks are juxtaposed against impermeable shale rocks. Water that can flow through enlarged conduits in limestone is in effect forced to the surface when it comes into contact with the impermeable rocks.

Most groundwater will have some dissolved minerals which control its chemistry, determining the hardness or softness of the water as well as its taste and colour. Sulphur rich groundwater is relatively unusual, and the sulphur gives the water a distinctive taste and smell, usually of the offensive 'rotten eggs' nature. It has been prized in the past as contributing to good health and as a cure for rheumatism, and at one time Swanlinbar was a Spa Town, receiving many visitors who came to take the waters.

This is one of two sulphur wells in Swanlinbar; a third was rich in magnesium.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The site is a good representative example of the spa wells found in the district at Swanlinbar, Glangevlin and Dowra.

Management/promotion issues

The well is publicly accessible with an information signboard provided by the Geopark, and is in good order. It features in several trail leaflets but other wells listed in such leaflets were not found during this audit. Revisions of any promotional literature or new resources should update information to current status.



The roadside sign to Dromod Spa Well.



The Geopark information signboard alongside Dromod Spa Well.

