

## CAVAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	Lough Kinale-Lough Sheelin Deltas
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	IGH7 Quaternary
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Carrick, Magheraboy Upper, Moat, Bracklagh, Kilgolagh
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	Finnea (Westmeath), Mount Nugent (Cavan)
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	41
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	639600E 781970N (centre of Kilgolagh Delta)
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	34
<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	12

### Outline Site Description

These deltas comprise a number of wide, flat-topped sand and gravel ridges, which stand proud above the surrounding peat bog in southwesternmost County Cavan.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The deltas were formed on bedrock which of Lower Carboniferous limestone. The features themselves are Quaternary in age, having been deposited at the edge of the northwestward-retreating ice sheet during deglaciation after the last Ice Age.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The delta features are fine examples of the type of ice-marginal, deglacial features that often form at the edge of glacial lakes. The ridges seem to be comprised of several individual deltas, which coalesced to form one large ice marginal standstill in the locality.

The deltas are chiefly made up of Lower Palaeozoic-age shale and sandstone clasts that were derived from the bedrock northwest of the site. These were carried by ice, released into a meltwater conduit on top of or within the ice, and then deposited subaqueously at the ice margin as the river left the ice. This water flowed off southeastwards into a lake much larger than modern-day Lough Sheelin. At that time, at the end of the Ice Age, both Lough Sheelin and Lough Kinale (as well as the adjacent Bracklagh Lough) would have formed part of the same lake.

### Site Importance – County Geological Site

These deltas are excellent examples of deglacial, ice-marginal, meltwater-deposited features.

### Management/promotion issues

This system comprises a number of superb features and should be listed as a County Geological Site. The features can be seen very clearly from the junction of the R394 and R194 roads at Kilgolagh, and a signboard in the wide lay-by here might help promote the features.



The delta feature at Kilgolagh, along the northwestern side of Lough Kinale, viewed from the R394 road.



View from the flat-topped delta feature towards Lough Sheelin.





