

CAVAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Western Cuilcagh – Garvagh Lough		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst; IGH7 Quaternary		
TOWNLAND(S)	Tawnamakelly, Garvagh, Mullaghboy, Legeelan		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Blacklion		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	4		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	607612E 833308N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	26	GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	7

Outline Site Description

This site is a lake and its surrounds on the limestone plateau of Western Cuilcagh.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock here is Lower Carboniferous limestone of the Dartry Limestone Formation, but the lake is probably perched on glacial till.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Garvagh Lough is unusual within the western Cuilcagh site in that lakes do not usually form on limestone terrain as drainage is normally subterranean. Garvagh Lough is probably perched on a veneer of glacial till which serves to seal off the bedrock. Several streams enter the lake and one outlet river sinks at Pollnaowen. This lake was the site of the first recorded water tracing experiment in 1872. Wheat chaff thrown into the lake sank at Pollnaowen and reappeared at Shannon Pot.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

The site is an important component of the Western Cuilcagh site proposed for geological NHA status.

Management/promotion issues

There is public-road access to the lake and a Geopark interpretative signboard at the lake itself. The same is the case for Pollnaowen where the outlet stream sinks after a few hundred metres travel from the lake.



Lough Garvagh with Cuilcagh mountain in the background.



The signboard at Cuilcagh.



