

GALWAY CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Terryland River (Sink/Rising)
Other names used for site	Sandy River, Glenanail
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst
TOWNLAND(S)	Glenanail, Ballinfoile, Castlegar
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Galway
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	94
ITM CO-ORDINATES	531660E 7274100N (western estavelle)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 46	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 14
GISCODE	GC011

Outline Site Description

A river with an unusual flow regime, which either flows out of the River Corrib and disappears underground, or rises and flows to the Corrib, via two estavelles.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The river meanders across flat terrain underlain by limestone of the Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) Burren Limestone Formation, and sinks/rises in a large karstic depression.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Terryland River is unusual in that its flow is diurnal reverse flow, draining either from two estavelles to the River Corrib when they act as springs, or from the River Corrib to the estavelles when they act as sink. The estavelles are themselves located in a karst depression. It is understood that the estavelles are connected to Galway Bay or Lough Atalia via an underground conduit system, although the precise discharge locations remain unidentified. A cave (Cooper's Cave), with a 3m x 1m opening, occurs at the western estavelle. The general groundwater flow direction is from the Ballindooley Lough area southwards into the underground conduit system. All the groundwater eventually discharges into Galway Bay.

Terryland River begins at the River Corrib, in the narrow channel on the east side of Jordan's Island, north of the ruins of Terryland Castle. The entrance to Terryland River was originally closer to Woodquay, somewhat north of the Black Box theatre on Dyke Road. The present entrance channel was cut to provide water to the Galway Corporation water treatment plant in 1867. The c. 4km long river meanders north eastwards across wetlands bounded by housing and industrial estates.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

The unusual bi-directional flow regime of the Terryland River and the associated karst features are such that this site is an ideal example of a County Geological Site. The river flows through Annex 1 wetland habitat areas. The confluence of the Terryland River and the River Corrib is located in the Lough Corrib SAC (000297).

Management/promotion issues

Terryland River flows through Terryland Forest Park, which extends from the site to the River Corrib. Further information on Terryland River and the karst features in the east Galway City area is available in Karst Survey Reports published for the N6 Galway City Ring Road (Appendix A.10.2, July 2018) and the Galway City Transport Project (Appendix A.4.4, February 2015). The site is on private farmland.



Western estavelle.



Tree cover around eastern estavelle.



Karst limestone collapse blocks at western estavelle.



View east from Bóthar na dTreabh bridge towards Castlegar.



Footbridge over river at western estavelle.



View of western estavelle from track beside Bóthar na dTreabh.

