

GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Boyounagh Turlough
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst, IGH16 Hydrogeology
TOWNLAND(S)	Cashel, Patch
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Glenamaddy
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	18
ITM CO-ORDINATES	559800E 763000N (centre of feature)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 39	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 11

Outline Site Description

This site comprises a small turlough in an inter-drumlin hollow about 3 km northwest of Glenamaddy.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock under the site is pure bedded, Lower Carboniferous limestone, but the turlough feature itself is post-glacial, formed in the last 11,000 years.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The landscape surrounding Boyounagh Turlough is comprised of low hills, but the floor of the turlough is relatively flat except for a rise in the eastern half. The basin is confined by slopes on the north and part of the south but is more open to the west. The northern shore is more steeply sloping with a good zonation from wet to drier grassland, while wetland herbs predominate in wetter areas.

Water enters the basin from the eastern end *via* an excavated drain from Lough Nahask. This continues through to a central marshy pond where drainage has resulted in some drying. A swallow hole occurs at the northeastern end of the feature, connected to the turlough *via* a partially-excavated drainage channel.

The feature reflects the interaction of the groundwater table with the land surface, and is a seasonal lake. There are many erratics of pure limestone around the base of the turlough, many of which are moss covered up to a certain elevation. Such moss provides a watermark which allows an approximation of the high-water level when the turlough is in flood.

Boyounagh Turlough has a varied vegetational cover for its size, with patches of ten separate plant communities around the floor of the basin. The occurrence of abandoned cultivation ridges adds to habitat diversity and overall scientific interest.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This turlough is worthy of recognition as a County Geological Site owing to the local-scale geomorphological diversity across the feature, across a relatively small area. The feature is already a pNHA (site code 001237) and the defined County Geological Site matches the boundaries of the pNHA area.

Management/promotion issues

Issues such as cattle encroachment and soil disturbance of the margins, and agricultural drainage attempts may cause problems.



Boyounagh Turlough, viewed from the north, September 2018.



The channel leading from the turlough to the swallow hole at its northeastern end.



Moss-covered cobbles in a stone wall within the turlough feature; the extent of the moss shows flooded water levels in the basin.



Small pond in the centre of the turlough, September 2018.

