

# GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Kilkerrin Turlough</b>
Other names used for site	Lehinch Turlough
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH1 Karst, IGH16 Hydrogeology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Lehinch, Rockfield West</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Kilkerrin</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>563200E 756200N (centre of feature)</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET No. 39</b>	<b>GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 12</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

This site comprises a small turlough in a relatively deep basin immediately east of Kilkerrin Village.

## **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 turlough basin site lies within a deep valley of glacial till, with bedrock outcrop common at the southwestern side as well as at the eastern side of the basin. There is one small stream inflow feeding surface water into the feature, from the northeast, and a surface outflow at the southwestern corner, which is hewn into the bedrock. Kilkerrin Turlough is a 'dry' turlough, which empties early in the year.

The turlough is crossed by a road on the northern side which divides it roughly into two halves. Both halves extend southwards in a crescent shape, with the western arm leading to the deep trench cut through the bedrock. At least five individual swallow holes occur at the base of the feature, and a cave has also been recorded historically.

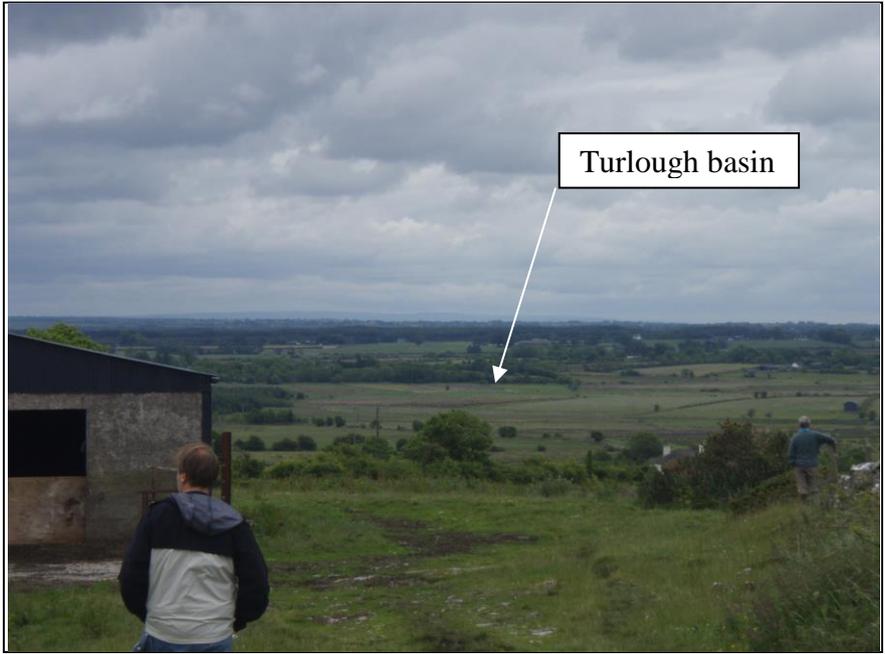
Water flowing into swallow holes at the base of Kilkerrin Turlough, as well as in the bedrock outcrop on top of Rockfield Hill, southeast of Kilkerrin, has been previously dye-traced and the water emerged from both traces at Marganure Spring, which is 2.5 km to the southeast of the Kilkerrin Turlough site. This proves that subsurface, groundwater flow from the Kilkerrin Turlough locality is southeastwards, *via* conduits underground.

## **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 designated as a pNHA (site code 001279).

## **Management/promotion issues**

Issues such as cattle encroachment and soil disturbance of the margins may cause problems. Threats to the site would include drainage of surrounding lands or the release of polluting substances, *e.g.* silage effluent, into the system.



Kilkerrin Turlough, viewed from Rockfield Hill at the east.



The undulating surface at the base of Kilkerrin Turlough.



Bedded limestone at the eastern end of the turlough.



Detail of swallow hole at the base of Kilkerrin Turlough.

