

GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Park Esker
Other names used for site	Ahaun Esker, Kiltullagh Esker
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)	Polleighter, Creggaun, Monagormley, Park East, Ahaun
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Glenamaddy
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	18
ITM CO-ORDINATES	559900E 7596750N (centre of ridge)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET No. 39	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 11

Outline Site Description

The Park Esker includes a number of high, sinuous ridge segments, which all form part of the same, small esker system, approximately 4 kilometres southwest of Glenamaddy, in northeast Galway.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The esker is formed within an area dominated by bedrock of Lower Carboniferous limestones. The esker itself is Quaternary in age, having been deposited either under or at the edge of the northward-retreating ice sheet during deglaciation, approximately 14,000 years ago.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This ridge forms part of the easternmost of the three major conduit systems that subglacially drained the western portion of the melting ice sheet in the Irish Midlands. It also forms a more northerly portion of the same system that the Derrynagran Esker forms part of.

The esker ridge is a striking feature, standing proud of the flat landscape of till (boulder clay) and sands and gravels within which it was deposited. The majority of the feature comprises intact portions, and little of the esker has been quarried out. The feature is important in that it records faithfully the ice movement across this area of northeast Galway, which is along its orientation, *i.e.* north to south. Associated sands and gravels in Park East and Monagormley Townlands flank the esker and are probably part of associated ice marginal fans. The sands and gravels within the esker feature itself are comprised chiefly of limestone clasts.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The esker feature is an impressively high, striking example of a dry sand and gravel ridge, standing proud of the surrounding landscape. This esker and the associated sands and gravels in the locality seem to be a good example of a deglacial, meltwater-deposited complex, with portions deposited under the ice, and portions at the ice margin.

Management/promotion issues

A walking trail along some of the roads that follows the esker segments, such as alongside Park Castle, with a signboard detailing the geomorphological history of the feature, could be an important local amenity resource. Currently, the land is in private ownership and the site should not be visited without the permission of the owners.



The Park Esker, standing proud of the landscape; viewed here from the base of Kiltullagh Lough, looking westwards. See the high, elevated nature of the ridge.



One of the esker segments in Park East Townland, just east of Park Castle.

