

GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Rahasane Turlough
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst
TOWNLAND(S)	Rahasane
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Craughwell
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	104
ITM CO-ORDINATES	547810E 719666N (centre of feature)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET No. 52	GSI BEDROCK 1: 100,000 SHEET NO. 14

Outline Site Description

A major turlough on the Dunkellin River, south of Craughwell in the northern part of the Gort lowland karst area, on the southern margins of east Galway's limestone bedrock plains.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The turlough functions within Carboniferous Limestone bedrock but is presumed to be a largely post glacial landscape feature.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Rahasane Turlough functions as an enormous estavelle, there being a very large number of estavelles of widely differing capacities particularly on the northern side of the feature. Under low water conditions the turlough is the terminal sink of the Dunkellin River but under wetter conditions some flow continues along the artificial channel to the estuary.

On average, 75% of the year inflows to the turlough exceed outflows (by $<15 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$). For the remainder of the year outflow exceed inflows by $<7 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ - this occurs when groundwater levels are close to the level of the turlough floor. Despite being partially drained the turlough remains an excellent example of the complex surface water - groundwater interactions that characterise such features.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

Rahasane Turlough, despite being partially drained, displays all the hydrogeological characters of a major turlough. This is one of numerous sites broadly within the Gort-Kinvara lowlands which make up a complex of international importance. The site is recommended to NPWS for designation as a geological NHA, comprising one of 16 critical sites within the Gort-Kinvara lowland karst, which is one of the best studied lowland karst areas of the World.

Management/promotion issues

It has already been recommended to NPWS for geological NHA status, but the site is fully protected already as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) site code 000322. There are places where the turlough can be viewed from the roadside, and panels to explain the functioning of a turlough could be considered for public promotion.



Panoramic view of Rahasane Turlough.



Panoramic view of Rahasane Turlough.



Moss-covered boulders at the western end of Rahasane Turlough.

