

# LAOIS - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Abbeyleix Bog</b>
Other names used for site	Killamuck Bog, Collin's Bog
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH7 Quaternary, IGH16 Hydrogeology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Tullyroe, Abbeyleix Demesne, Killamuck, Clonkeen, Granafallow, Ballymullen, Knocknamoe</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Abbeyleix</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>23, 29</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>643300E 682700N (centre of bog)</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>60 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 15, 18</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

Abbeyleix Bog comprises an extensive area of peatland extending in a low-lying hollow, north to south, for approximately 3 kilometres south of Abbeyleix Town.

## **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

Abbeyleix Bog is situated within an area dominated by bedrock of Lower Carboniferous limestone. The bog peat is Quaternary in age, having formed in marshy conditions as an extensive envelope of the landscape in the area since deglaciation, and mostly from about 7,000-10,000 years ago.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

While today a generally flat and open landscape, the locality of Abbeyleix Bog was covered by bog, marsh, quicksand, and ponds thousands of years ago as the bog formed. At that time the marshy ground would have been surrounded by dense woodlands of birch, willow, hazel and alder. Today, the bog is also surrounded around its perimeter by broadleaf forestry, recently planted after the peat was cut.

The bog itself comprises partially decomposed vegetation, which sank into marshland within the wide, wet basin. This material was laid layer upon layer for thousands of years, as the fibrous peat formed and eventually decayed into amorphous organic material over time.

The locality was therefore gradually covered by the rising bogland, which formed a dome-shaped, 'raised' bog. The site has had a boardwalk built across it recently, as a number of walks have been developed across the site. Other features of peat interest are included within the site boundary, such as intact and drained peat, small pockets of industrially-cutover peat, peat cut by locals, wetlands, and recovering peat.

## **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

As the various forms of peat are all accessible within a small locality, and as the bog and its amenity walks exist due to the geological and hydrogeological process of peat growth, the locality is ranked as a County Geological Site.

## **Management/promotion issues**

Abbeyleix Bog has a number of walkways within, which were developed by local interests in conjunction with Bord na Móna. The geological aspects of the feature could be highlighted more in some of the promotional material.



The main dome of Abbeyleix Bog, with the boardwalk across the feature also visible.



One of the drainage channels exiting the northern side of the bog.



A signboard detailing the flora and fauna of the bogland.



Some of the narrow boardwalk through birch woodland at the edge of the feature.

