

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Trim Esker
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME:	IGH 7 (Quaternary)
TOWNLAND(S)	Numerous
NEAREST TOWN	Trim
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	36, 37, 43
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	285500 253100 = N 855 531
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	42 1/2 inch Sheet No.

Outline Site Description

A 6km long section of a predominantly wooded esker ridge.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Quaternary sand and gravel deposits.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Stretching along a 6km stretch of third class road between Trim and Arodstown is the heavily wooded glacial feature known as the Trim Esker. This beaded esker was formed by a river flowing beneath an ice sheet, which covered this area during the last Ice Age. This sub-glacial river deposited sand and gravel. When the ice finally retreated the deposited material remained to form a long linear ridge, which stands out from the surrounding landscape.

Site Importance

This beaded esker is part of the Galtrim meltwater complex, and demonstrates the importance of Irish eskers in world geological literature. It was here that Francis Synge observed the unique occurrence of an esker crossing a moraine, although the site of this intersection has been destroyed by quarrying. The Trim Esker, though itself not unique, as a beaded, feeder system and as one of the most studied and discussed eskers historically in the country, deserves designation as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The total length of this feature is around 14.5km and comprises several segments, but many have been destroyed by quarrying. Only one segment, extending over 6km, is therefore recommended for designation in this report. A number of extraction companies are currently exploiting parts of this esker but future quarrying should be prohibited. Occasional dumping was observed along the roadside and needs to be addressed.



Left: Looking southwards along the Trim Esker from its shoulder (R.Meehan 2007).

Right: A number of areas along this esker have been used for illegal dumping which can adversely affect the feature.



Above: In many places along this esker are exposed sections of glaciofluvial material (mainly sand, rounded gravel and rounded cobbles). These sections allow geologists to better understand the processes involved in the generation of features like eskers.

Below: Northern section of the Trim Esker oriented northwest-southeast direction. This linear feature is easily identified by its vegetation growth (mainly wooded) and by the road that runs parallel to it (Aerial photo, OSi 2000).

Trim Esker

