

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	St. Gorman's Spring	
Other names used for site	St. Gorman's Well, Hotwell House	
IGH THEME:	IGH 16 (Hydrogeology)	
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballynakill	
NEAREST TOWN	Summerhill	
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	48	
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	274080 244200 = N 7408 4420	
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	49	1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description

Warm spring.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Waulsortian) limestone.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This warm spring found northwest of Enfield reportedly covers an area of approximately 40m² during periods of high discharge. Temperatures vary between 12° and 25° depending on climate conditions and seasonal variations. The spring occasionally overflows into an adjacent swamped area from where it is channelled into a local ditch drainage network. The substratum is primarily composed of large limestone fragments and gravel. St. Gorman's Spring is described as being seasonal, completely drying up towards the end of the summer.

Site Importance

This spring is a very important example of the warm spring province of the Kildare-Meath border area in northwest Leinster. As it is one of the highest temperature warm springs, well studied and the least disturbed in the Leinster province, and probably in the whole of Ireland, it is to be proposed as an NHA. It should also be listed as a County Geological Site in Meath.

Management/promotion issues

The spring lies within the grounds of the aptly named Hotwell House. As this site is on private land it is not suitable for general promotion without first contacting the owner.



Left: A view of St. Gorman's Spring, taken in February.

Right: Steam rising from St. Gorman's Spring. This is generated by the geothermal processes that heat the water to as much as 25°. Photo taken in February.

Photos by Percy Foster

St. Gorman's Spring

