

# MONAGHAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Ballyloughan Turloughs</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH1 Karst; IGH7 Quaternary; IGH16 Hydrogeology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Ballyloughan</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Carrickmacross</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>683466E 800830N</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>35</b>
	<b>GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 8</b>

## Outline Site Description

This site comprises three small turloughs in a valley about 1 km southeast of Lough Fea.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock is Lower Carboniferous limestone, but the features are post-glacial, formed in the last 11,000 years.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

These small turloughs have only been documented recently (2011) in a survey of wetlands in County Monaghan, undertaken as a Heritage Plan action. They reflect the interaction of the groundwater table with the land surface, and are seasonal lakes, although the southernmost one maintains some standing water all year, and has some bedrock exposed in its basin.

## Site Importance – County Geological Site

These three turloughs are worthy of recognition as County Geological Sites, due to the relative rarity of such features in the county. Turloughs are exceptionally rare east of the Shannon River, in fact, with known examples in Longford, Westmeath and Monaghan only.

## Management/promotion issues

Issues such as cattle encroachment and soil disturbance of the margins and agricultural drainage attempts may cause problems.



Panoramic view of Ballyloughan Turloughs from higher ground to the northwest.



High water line for Ballyloughan Turlough is suggested by the vegetational change and bare mud line.





