

# MONAGHAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	Moylan Lough
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	IGH1 Karst; IGH7 Quaternary; IGH16 Hydrogeology
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Tullyvaragh Upper, Tullyvaragh Lower, Monanagirr, Tullymackilmartin, Garrifly
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	Carrickmacross
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	28
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	685423E 808842N
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	35
<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	8/9

## Outline Site Description

This site comprises an undisturbed turlough

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The turlough is situated within Lower Carboniferous limestones that are found around and to the north east of Carrickmacross. It has formed in post-glacial times over the last 11,000 years.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This is probably the most northeasterly turlough in Ireland and was the only known turlough in Monaghan until a 2011 survey of wetlands in the county confirmed others, such as Ballyloughan. It is situated within a deep basin with no inflowing or outflowing streams. Sinkholes in the southwestern and northwestern corners act both as sinks and risings, technically called estavelles, as the water level fluctuates. There is, however, a standing body of water.

The water in Moylan Lough is probably coming from Tullyvaragh sink and is believed to flow underground southward to emerge at Donaghmoyne Rising, with dye tracing to confirm this flowpath.

## Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA

This is a turlough that is being considered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for designation as an NHA. As an ecological habitat it is probably of international importance. Geologically it is certainly of County Geological Site importance but may deserve consideration for geological NHA status, if a review of IGH 1 Karst sites is undertaken, if not already designated by NPWS.

## Management/promotion issues

The turlough is on private farmland and not suitable for visiting, but is easily visible and best seen from the public road on the northern side.



Moylan Lough viewed from the public road to the north.



Moylan Lough turlough viewed from high ground to the west.



The main sinks at the southwestern corner of Moylan Lough.



The main sinks at the southwestern corner of Moylan Lough.





