

MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	River Moy
Other names used for site	Moy River; Buaile an Ghleanna; Gubanalt
IGH THEME	IGH14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology
TOWNLAND(S)	<i>Between Foxford and Ballina: Foxford, Bellass, Rinnananny, Shrah, Shraheen, Curragh, Moorbrook, Drumscora, Bunnafinglas, Coolcraun, Carrowkeribly, Tonybaun, Drumrevagh, Ballynahaglish, Ballyhiernaun, Cloonslaun, Carrowntreila, Rathaconeen, Rahan, Carrowcushlaun, Mullauns, Glebe, Carrowcushlaun West</i>
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Foxford; Ballina
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	48, 49
ITM CO-ORDINATES	527030E 806700N (coordinates at Rinnananny)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 24	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 6
GIS Code MO089	

Outline Site Description

A long, lowland river, famous for angling, that exhibits excellent meandering and drains a catchment area of over 2000km² flowing into the Moy River estuary at Ballina.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The feature in its current form has formed in the Holocene (post-glacial) Period.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

With a length of over 100km, the River Moy is one of the best examples of a meandering river in the country. A lowland river, the Moy rises in the Ox Mountains in County Sligo and flows westwards into County Mayo, after which it meanders for much of its course to the Moy Estuary (north of Ballina) and finally into Killala Bay. The Rinnananny bends are the most iconic meanders along the river course. The main river channel is up to 40m wide in places. The River Moy drains a catchment of over 2000km² which encompasses almost two thirds of County Mayo and a significant portion of west County Sligo. The river is one of the most prolific salmon rivers in Europe, as well as being an important trout and sea trout river.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

This County Geological Site is within the River Moy SAC (002298) and the proposed NHA (pNHA 002078). The site is significant as it demonstrates some of the best examples of U-shaped river channel meandering in the country.

Management/promotion issues

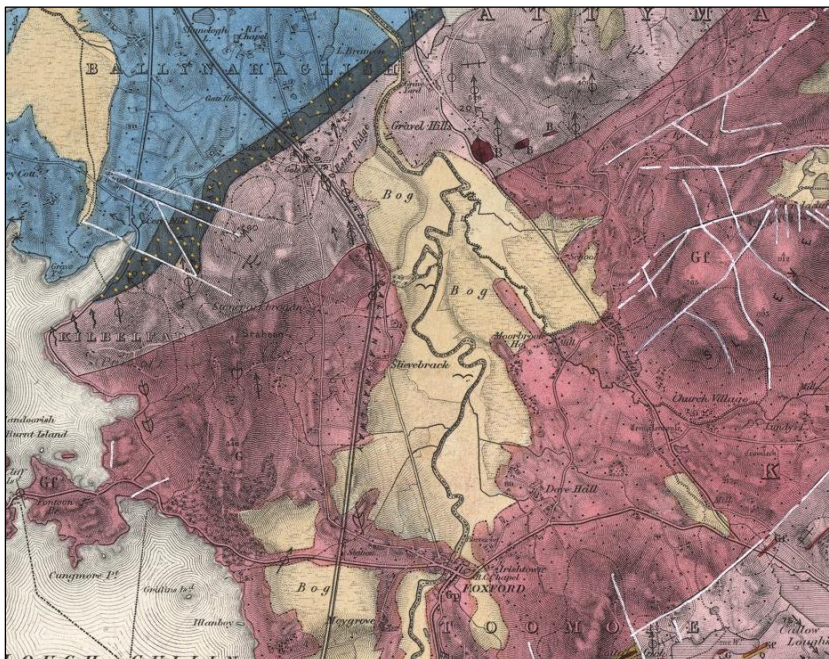
Extraction of the thick alluvial deposits along the river floodplains comprising sands, gravels and silts is a minimal but a possible threat. The feature is important for, and widely renowned for its fishing. It is also important as a water source for the region. As a result, the feature is likely to remain protected for this reason. The site is within the Western River Basin District (RBD), and is regarded as having 'good' river water quality status.



U-shaped meander in River Moy at Rinnananny, north of Foxford. View from east bank of river, looking west. River flowing to right (north).



Silt deposits on the east bank at Rinnananny, north of Foxford.



Geological Survey of Ireland 1:63360 Sheet 64 (published in 1878) showing the meandering route of the Moy River to the

north of Foxford.

