

NORTH DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Fean Loch Caol
Other names used for site	Lough Keel, Lough Keel Fan
IGH THEME	IGH14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology
TOWNLAND(S)	Crolly, Meencorwick, Tor
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Anagaire (Annagry)
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	42
ITM CO-ORDINATES	584885E 916250N (centre of feature)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 1	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 1
GIS Code ND028	

Outline Site Description

The Lough Keel site comprises a triangular, fan-shaped area of well drained pasture land hosting good soils, set within a wide expanse of mountainous peat and rock.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The fan formed on bedrock of Precambrian quartzites and gneisses, but the feature comprising the fan itself is Quaternary in age, deposited since the last Ice Age during the Holocene, or post-glacial, period.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The fan comprises a triangular shaped area of well drained land at the edge of Lough Keel.

The fan includes coarse gravels which have been deposited by the modern day river as it cascades down the mountainside, and comes to rest upon entering the lake. The feature is therefore genetically labelled an 'alluvial fan'. Such features are rare in Donegal.

Finer sediments between these gravels are well drained, and the feature appears like an island of well drained land in an otherwise rugged and barren landscape of peatland and bedrock outcrop.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This fan feature comprises a fine landform sequence and should be listed as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

As the feature contains private farmland it is not suitable for general promotion. The feature is however readily visible from the third class road leading south from Croithlí (Crolly) towards An Clochán Liath (Dunglow), through the uplands around Crocknafarragh.



The fan feature at Lough Keel, picked out from the surrounding peat and rock terrain by the well drained pasture fields.



A portion of the land on the fan at Lough Keel, comprising well drained pasture.



The contrast between the green pasture (where well drained sediment lies beneath) and the heath land (with rock and peat beneath) is clearly seen.

