

OFFALY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Lough Boora Parklands
Other names used for site	Lough Boora Discovery Park, Boora Bog
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)	Lea Beg, Lea More, Broughal, Barnaboy, Kilnagall, Ballybracken Litte, Ballybracken, Bunakeeran, Oughter
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Cloghan, Kilcormac
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	23
ITM CO-ORDINATES	618200E 719050N (at centre of feature)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	48, 54 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 15

Outline Site Description

The Lough Boora Parklands comprises a series of walks and visitor attractions, including an extensive sculpture park and angling lakes, set in and around an extensive area of cutover peat near Lough Boora.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The Lough Boora Parklands are situated within an area dominated by bedrock of Lower Carboniferous limestone. The parklands themselves are set in cutover peat which is Quaternary in age, having formed as an extensive envelope of the landscape in the area since deglaciation, and mostly approximately 7,000-10,000 years ago.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The site has a visitor centre where visual records of peat harvesting are shown as photo montages on the cafe walls, and the relic of former equipment surround the centre. Many of these have been reworked into impressive sculptures. Other features of interest are included within the site boundary, such as intact and drained peat, industrially-cutover peat, peat cut by locals, wetlands, and recovering peat.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

As the various forms of peat are all accessible within a small locality, and as the parklands (and their visitor centre) exist due to the geological and hydrogeological processes of peat growth, the locality is recommended as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The Lough Boora Parklands are run by Bord na Mona. The geological aspects of the bogs of the region could be highlighted more in some of the promotional material.



The entrance avenue to the Parklands, with the old railway preserved in the hardstand.



The visitor centre and adjacent lake.



Some of the marshy vegetation in 'Skytrain' before it became vegetated over (December 2001).



'Skytrain' before it became vegetated over (December 2001).

