

## OFFALY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Silloogue Spring</b>
Other names used for site	Silloogue Well
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH16 Hydrogeology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Coniker</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Tullamore</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>631360E 730290N</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	<b>15</b>

### Outline Site Description

A natural freshwater spring and a local public water supply system source.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The spring emerges from Dinantian pure bedded limestones of Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) age.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Located in Durrow Abbey Woods, roughly halfway between Tullamore and Clara, Silloogue Spring is a high yielding spring. The waters issue from a regionally important karstified limestone aquifer, overlain by a locally important gravel aquifer.

At an elevation of 60mOD, the spring has an average abstraction rate of up to 3,500m<sup>3</sup> to 3,900m<sup>3</sup> per day (770,000 to 858,000 gallons per day). The water is categorised as 'excessively hard', falling within a range of 303-477 milligrams per litre CaCO<sub>3</sub>.

### Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is an important site in terms of hydrogeology, and as a source for the local drinking water supply. The spring and its compound are recommended as County Geological Site.

### Management/promotion issues

The site is located in Durrow Abbey Woods. A Coillte owned woodland, the woods are promoted by Coillte as a recreational site with looped trails, and are accessible on a 3.2 kilometre long, circular walk. (Note that there is no information at the site about the walk, and only locals know the walk is looped). Silloogue Spring and the associated works are fenced off. The site does not present any significantly interesting aspects for recreational walkers passing by to see. Erection of an information plaque on the locked, gated entrance would serve to communicate information about the spring, the hydrogeology and how this site serves as a public water supply.



Sillogue Well pump house – northwest side.



The gated entrance to Sillogue Well.



Sillogue Well pump house – southwest side.



Entrance (west) to Durrow Woods, and to Sillogue Well - viewed from roadside.



