

OFFALY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Toberdaly		
Other names used for site	Rhode RWWS A Toberdaly, <i>Tobar Dálaigh</i>		
IGH THEME	IGH16 Hydrogeology		
TOWNLAND(S)	Toberdaly		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Rhode		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	11		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	651670E 731710N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	48	GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	15

Outline Site Description

A natural freshwater spring that supplies the Rhode rural water supply scheme.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The spring emerges from Dinantian Upper Impure Limestones of Carboniferous age (Mississippian).

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Toberdaly is located southwest of Rhode, at a T-junction 1km northwest of the Toberdaly bridge over the Grand Canal. At an elevation of 79m OD, the spring has an average abstraction rate of up to 2,500m³ (550,000 gallons per day).

There are three springs at the site: Pool Well, Heavey's Well and Mount Well. Pool Well is currently the only well in operation. The three wells were springs which were deepened in order to increase the natural yield. Pool Well is covered by a corrugated steel shed. Mount Well and Heavey's well are covered by concrete.

The water is categorised as 'hard' (average 332 mg/l CaCO₃), falling within a range of 210-592 milligrams per litre CaCO₃.

At the surface, the spring is situated at a contact between impure limestones and pure bedded limestones, around 300m south of a fault. Toberdaly spring is classed as a tepid spring with water temperature values of 12.65°C (recorded in 1983).

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is an important site in terms of hydrogeology. Water from Pool Well is pumped to three separate group schemes at Fahy, Croghan and Rhode. The site is recommended as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

All wells and the site are fenced off. The Mount Well supplied water to the now closed peat-fuelled power station at Rhode. The site does not present any significantly interesting aspects for passers-by. However, a panel could be erected on the entrance gate to communicate information about the springs, the local hydrogeology and how this site serves as a public water supply.



Gated entrance to Toberdaly works.



View NE along road. Heavey's Well far left side of road. Main works on right.



Main works site at Toberdaly. Pool Well in corrugated shed on rear-left.



Pool Well in shed and Mount Well (left).



Heavey's Well borehole.

