

ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Boyle Road Cutting
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH10 Devonian
TOWNLAND(S)	Tawnytaskin
NEAREST TOWN	Boyle
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	6
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	181763 305142 (centre of section)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	33 1/2 inch Sheet No. 7

Outline Site Description

A low rock cliff on the west side of the N4 road northeast of Boyle town.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks are of Devonian age, and are principally made up of sandstones, which also contain some very hard volcanic sediments.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Devonian rocks in the Curlew Mountains are principally conglomerates and sandstones but they are poorly exposed. This site provides a good representative section of these Devonian rocks not often exposed elsewhere. Their general characteristics suggest they were deposited in various alluvial environments. In the Boyle road cutting they are classified as the Keadew Formation, but they are already badly weathered, degraded and vegetated in the time since the cutting was made and the road opened in 1999.

One section is accessible and visible because the rock is a local unit of volcanoclastic sediments, termed the Sheegorey Member. Volcanoclastic simply means that the rock material was derived from a volcanic eruption, but the rock was deposited as a sedimentary rock like a sandstone, as an aggregate of small particles. This is a hard, dark grey rock with a purple tinge. It forms well bedded layers which are cut back in a small cliff in the cutting. Localised seeps of lime rich water are forming tufa-like deposits along the cliff. As the rock does not weather and degrade as quickly as the surrounding sandstones it has not become vegetated as much.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is a good representative section for the Sheegorey Member of the Keadew Formation, and it is of County Geological Site importance.

Management/promotion issues

Vegetation is already covering the southern end of the section and some management of this would be required in the long term to maintain an open rock section in the sandstones.



The mid-section of the Boyle Road Cutting showing the wide verge and relatively unvegetated cliff.



The lime rich water seeping from bedding planes in the volcaniclastic rocks has formed a tufa-like deposit over parts of the face.

