

# ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Erritt and Cloonagh Loughs Deltas</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH7 Quaternary</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Errit, Gortaganny, Carrowbehy, Lecarrow, Derreenamackaun, Cloondart, Tully Ballyhaunis (Mayo), Loughglinn (Roscommon)</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>154250 285500 (centre of feature)</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>32 1/2 inch Sheet No.</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

These deltas comprise a number of wide, flat-topped ridges made up of sand and gravel, which stand proud above the surrounding peat bog, in northwesternmost County Roscommon.

## **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

The deltas are formed on bedrock which is of Lower Carboniferous limestone. The features themselves are Quaternary in age, having been deposited at the edge of the northwestward-retreating ice sheet during deglaciation after the last Ice Age.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The delta features are fine examples of the type of ice marginal, deglacial features that often form at the edge of glacial lakes. The ridges seem to be comprised of several individual deltas, which coalesce to form one large ice marginal standstill in the locality.

The deltas are chiefly made up of limestone clasts which have been derived from the bedrock around the site within the Irish Midlands. These were carried by ice, released into a meltwater conduit on top of or within the ice, and then deposited subaqueously at the ice margin as the river left the ice and flowed off southeastwards.

## **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

These deltas are excellent examples of deglacial, ice marginal, meltwater-deposited features.

## **Management/promotion issues**

This system comprises a number of superb features and should be listed as a County Geological Site. A signboard in Gortaganny (which means the 'sandy field') where the locals have a strong 'tidy village' initiative might help promote the features.



The main delta feature between Cloonagh and Errit Loughs (green fields) from the east.



See the flat-topped nature of the delta ridge, adjacent to Cloonagh Lough.



Bedded sands and gravels which were deposited in a glacial lake, exposed in a gravel pit.



