

ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Loughnaneane Turlough
Other names used for site	Loughnaneane Park
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst, IGH7 Quaternary, IGH16 Hydrogeology
TOWNLAND(S)	Loughnaneane, Ballyboughan
NEAREST TOWN	Roscommon
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	39
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	186670 265000 (centre of feature)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	40 1/2 inch Sheet No. 12

Outline Site Description

This site comprises an expansive turlough adjacent to Roscommon town.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The turlough is founded on Carboniferous Limestone bedrock, in a basin eroded largely by ice sheets during the Ice Age (Quaternary).

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The turlough is a karstic basin which is sometimes inundated with water yet at other times is dry grassland, depending on the level of the water table. This turlough shows no obvious large springs to feed it, nor sinks that take water, as many turloughs have, so presumably water flow is via many smaller conduits in the bedrock.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This turlough is a good example of a geomorphological feature which Roscommon has a large number of, but which are rare in Europe as a whole and largely represented only in Ireland. An arbitrary choice of larger than 10 hectares in size for SAC designation of turloughs means that some smaller ones such as Loughnaneane Turlough of significance are overlooked in nature conservation designations.

Management/promotion issues

This site has a pride of place in Roscommon town through Loughnaneane Park which is partly within the turlough and which already offers good opportunities for people to visit, view, learn about and enjoy the turlough and its wildlife, as the seasons change and water levels in the turlough also change.



A view over the turlough in summer of 2012, from the road at the southeastern margin.



A sign for the park approaching the town.



Horses grazing the drier slopes of the turlough.



A view from Roscommon Castle steps looking over the public park, to the left, and fields sloping down to the centre of the turlough basin, looking west.

