

# ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

**NAME OF SITE**

Suck River Callows

Other names used for site

**IGH THEME**

IGH14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology

**TOWNLAND(S)**

Ballyforan, Cloonagh, Carrowntariff, Ballyglass, Cartronkilly, Feevagh Beg, Feevagh, Feevagh More, Derrycabill, Porteen and Ballyrevagh West, Breeole West, Cregganycarna, Cloonaddron, Clooncoran, Bellagill, Rooaun Bog and Meadow, Suckfield, Tulrush, Ardarn, Culliaghmore, Culliaghbeg, Correenbeg, Correen, Creggan, Raghrabeg Ballyforan (North), Shannonbridge (South)

**NEAREST TOWN****SIX INCH MAP NUMBER**

47, 50, 53, 56

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE**

184530 236820 (central portion of callows)

**1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER**

47 1/2 inch Sheet No. 15

**Outline Site Description**

The Suck River Callows is a long, flat site which includes the Suck River floodplain, and which extends for approximately 70 km from the village of Castlecoote to the town of Shannonbridge. Only the representative section from Ballyforan to Shannonbridge is reported here, a length of approximately 38 km. The site averages about 0.5 km in width though in places is up to 1.5 km wide.

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

The floodplain is of Holocene (postglacial) age.

**Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The site has extensive areas of callow, or seasonally flooded, semi-natural, lowland wet grassland, along both sides of the river. The callows are mainly too soft for intensive farming but are used for hay or silage or for summer grazing. Other habitats of smaller area which occur alongside the river include lowland dry grassland, freshwater marshes, reedbeds and wet woodland. Along most of its length the site is bordered by raised bogs, now mostly exploited for peat, with some hummocks and esker ridges, and knolls of limestone bedrock. As with any geomorphological process based site, it must be remembered that these are dynamic environments and the flooding is a natural and unpredictable development.

**Site Importance – County Geological Site**

The Suck River Callows is an extensive area of lowland semi-natural grassland and associated aquatic habitats, despite much drainage works in recent years. This site is of considerable ornithological importance for the Greenland White-fronted Goose population which is of international importance. The Suck River Callows are also known to support nationally important populations of Whooper Swan, Wigeon and Lapwing.

**Management/promotion issues**

The site has been designated a proposed NHA (Site Number 000222) and SPA (Site No. 04097). The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. Listing it as a County Geological Site gives recognition to the geomorphological foundation of the biodiversity importance. As it is dynamic system, controlling flooding is neither easy nor advisable.



Suck River Callows near Carrowreagh Townland, north of Ballinasloe.



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