

SLIGO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Lough Nasool – Lough Bo
Other names used for site	
TOWNLAND(S)	Kiltylough, Coollemoneen, Ballinphull, Doongelagh, Cornamucklagh
NEAREST TOWN	Geevagh/ Castlebaldwin
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	34
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	179600 318150 = G79600 18150
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	25 1/2 inch Sheet No. 7

Outline Site Description

Vanishing Lake / Lakes connected by karstic drainage?

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The development of the karstic drainage is probably post glacial, i.e. within the last 12,000 years.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Recorded historical accounts indicate that Lough Nasool is a good example of the phenomenon of a vanishing lake which drains occasionally via a discrete sinkhole, rather than being a turlough which is related to seasonally fluctuating groundwater levels. It is essentially an inter-drumlin lake with a leaky floor where the glacial drift above the limestone bedrock is a bit thin. The lake is more prone to drain under highwater conditions, suggesting that a significant hydrostatic pressure is required to force open the sinkhole via which the water drains from the lake. Evidence suggests that Lough Nasool may drain underground to Lough Bo. Lough Nasool is the best example of a vanishing lake in Ireland and, if connected to Lough Bo, is also the best example of a vanishing lake connected to another lake via underground drainage. If the connection between Lough Nasool and Lough Bo can be proved via tracing this would be a unique example of this feature. Coleman (1965) noted that Lough Nasool drained completely in August 1933 and July 1964. An estimated 600,000 gallons drained from the lake revealing a sinkhole in the floor of the lake at its southern end. Coleman states that the draining took place in just over 1 hour, although local evidence suggests that the draining took weeks rather than hours. There is a sinkhole recorded at the northern end of the lake

Site Importance

The site is of National importance and is proposed for NHA designation under the IGH1 Karst theme of the GSI's IGH Programme, [Site IGH1-29] as of 2003.

Management/promotion issues

Modification through drainage would damage the scientific interest of the loughs.



Lough Bo looking west Photo: John Kelly.



Lough Nasool Photo: Conor Mac Dermot

