

TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Bay Lough Corrie
Other names used for site	Béal Loch, Petticoat Looses Lake
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)	Bohernagore West
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Clogheen
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	87
ITM CO-ORDINATES	602720E 610840N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 74	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 22

Outline Site Description

A glacial corrie situated on the northern flank of the Knockmealdown Mountains, near the R668 Lismore to Clogheen road.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The corrie is Quaternary in age, formed by glacier ice scouring out a deep, bowl-shaped hollow on the slopes of the mountains during the Pleistocene ice ages. Bedrock in this locality is Devonian Old Red Sandstone. The lithologies comprise pink-purple medium-grained sandstone of the Knockmealdown Sandstone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Bay Lough Corrie is a familiar landscape feature to road users on the R668 Lismore to Clogheen road, and to walkers on this section of the Tipperary Heritage Way and the Avondhu (Blackwater) Way. At 260 m OD, Bay Lough (*Béal Locha*) floors the corrie. The corrie is bounded on the northern and eastern side by a moraine feature, which itself is up to 25 m high. The moraine comprises well-drained, bouldery material. The corrie has a steep, almost-vertical back wall, up to 200 m in height. Bedrock exposure is limited on the backwall of the corrie, owing to the dense vegetation cover comprising mainly *Rhododendron*. This invasive species is prolific in the valley, obscuring outcrops of the Knockmealdown Sandstone Formation. The moraine ridge, which arcs across the northeastern side of the corrie impounds the corrie lake (tarn) Bay Lough.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is a fine example of a corrie, with a steep back wall and moraine lip impounding a corrie lake. This corrie is an interesting County Geological Site, and is part of a complex of Quaternary geology of national importance.

Management/promotion issues

Access to the corrie and Bay Lough is via a 100 m gravel track leading north from the parking area. The 56 km long Tipperary Heritage Way starts at the parking area. The Avondhu (Blackwater) Way also passes along the trackway to the corrie. Promotional signage and maps relating to these walking trails are mounted at the parking area. No information is present informing the public of the glacial story of the corrie and mountain pass. The inclusion of this information would be valuable in raising an awareness of the geomorphology and history of the landscape. The continued spread of invasive *Rhododendron* will further obscure outcrops of this portion of montane terrain and the outcrops of Knockmealdown Sandstone Formation, the type locality of which is in this area.



Corrie and Bay Lough from R668 viewing point.



View north from parking area out The Gap.



Track alongside Bay Lough and moraine (right).



Walking trail signage at R668 parking area.



Lake outflow at southeast side of lake by the track.

