

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ballymacart River
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH14 Fluvial and lacustrine geomorphology
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballymacart Upper, Ballintlea South, Ballintlea North
NEAREST TOWN	Ardmore
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 39
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	224670 83775 (at the bridge inland) 225270 81035 (at the mouth)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	82 1/2 inch Sheet No. 22

Outline Site Description

The Ballymacart River channel is deeply incised at the portion of its reach closest to the sea, for a stretch of approximately two kilometres. The channel is oriented north-south and is V-shaped, and up to 50m deep.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The feature in its' current form has been eroded in the Holocene (post-glacial) Period, but the macro-morphology of the feature may be a relict of late Quaternary (Ice Age) meltwater erosion.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The river is deeply incised to a depth of approximately 50m within the south Waterford landscape. Much of the seaward stretch has been etched in bedrock, with that length further inland etched in a mixture of glacial till and bedrock.

The majority of the channel is V-shaped, with the portion closest to the sea U shaped, which may suggest that this portion was shaped by glacial meltwaters. The Ballymacart River is essentially a misfit stream along this stretch of river, as it is much smaller than the valley is lies within.

Site Importance

This is a very good example of an incised stream gully and is a site of County Geological Site importance. It is also part of Glenanna Wood pNHA 001698.

Management/promotion issues

This is a macro-scale feature and has few management issues as the bend can be seen from many roads which lie adjacent to the feature. An information board at the beach car park at the southern end of the channel may prove a worthy addition to the site, explaining the formation of the valley channel.



The downstream end of the Ballymacart river valley.



The upstream end of the Ballymacart River site, only gently incised.



Looking upstream into Ballymacart river valley from the sea.



