

# WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Coumfea - Coumalocha</b>
Other names used for site	Deer Valley (Coumfea)
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH7 Quaternary</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Curraghduff, Lyre Mountain, Comeragh Mountain</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	<b>Ballymacarbry</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>Waterford 6 (and 14)</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>228810 109980</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	75 <b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b> 22

## **Outline Site Description**

Coumfea and Coumalocha are two deep glacial corries, which together make up one large bowl-shaped hollow along the western flank of the Comeragh Mountains, ten kilometres east of Ballymacarbry. The features are one of three sets of corries at the head of the Nire Valley.

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

The features were formed during the Quaternary (Ice Age), by glacier ice scouring out two side-by-side, deep, armchair-shaped hollows at the edge of the mountains.

The majority of the features therefore comprise ice-scoured bedrock, which itself is Devonian Old Red Sandstone. The rock itself is mostly conglomerate.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The corries comprise a wide, deep hollow, which is up to 1.5 km wide, and which contains two individual corries separated by an arête. The features have an almost-vertical backwall up to 210m in height, and the smaller, western corrie is floored by Lough Coumfea which is at a higher elevation than the floor of the eastern corrie at Coumalocha. Coumalocha is a wider, larger feature and is floored by three individual lakes (only two of which are shown on the first edition O.S. Discovery Series Map).

Both corries are bounded by particularly hummocky moraine features at their northern edges. The moraine comprises well-drained, bouldery material.

## **Site Importance**

This is an excellent example of a composite corrie and an important County Geological Site, and this site is part of a complex of Quaternary geology of national importance. It is a particularly areally-extensive feature and its composite nature adds to its significance.

## **Management/promotion issues**

Access to the corrie is restricted to hillwalkers and climbers, as there is no road access. Again though the feature is potentially under-promoted, the absence of a cut/built path and signs in fact helps to protect the locality as a pristine portion of montane terrain. The site is already part of the Comeraghs Mountains Special Area of Conservation and pNHA (SAC – 001952).



The western backwall of Coumalocha.



View north across Coumalocha, with two of the three lakes.



The eastern backwall of Coumalocha.



