

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Coumshingaun
Other names used for site	Com Seangan, Glen of the Ants, Pissmire Valley
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)	Kilclooney
NEAREST TOWN	Kilmacthomas
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 6 and 7
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	232563 110900
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	75 1/2 inch Sheet No. 22

Outline Site Description

Coumshingaun is a deep glacial corrie, situated along the eastern flank of the Comeragh Mountains, eight kilometres northwest of Kilmacthomas along the R676 road.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The feature was formed during the Quaternary (Ice Age), by glacier ice scouring out a deep, armchair-shaped hollow at the edge of the mountains.

The majority of the feature therefore comprises ice-scoured bedrock, which itself is Devonian Old Red Sandstone, and is mostly conglomerate rocks composed of large pebbles and cobbles.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This corrie has an almost-vertical backwall up to 400m in height. A lake floors the feature and the corrie is bounded on the eastern side by a moraine, which has been dissected by a Holocene (post-glacial) river draining the lake. The moraine comprises well-drained, bouldery material, and the area around and east of Coumshingaun is littered with large erratic boulders up to 15m across. Many of these erratics weigh several hundred tonnes and bear testament to the power of the ice sheet which transported them.

The northern and southern sides of the corrie are both arêtes, where two corries eroding towards each other result in a narrow sharp ridge of rock remaining between them.

Site Importance

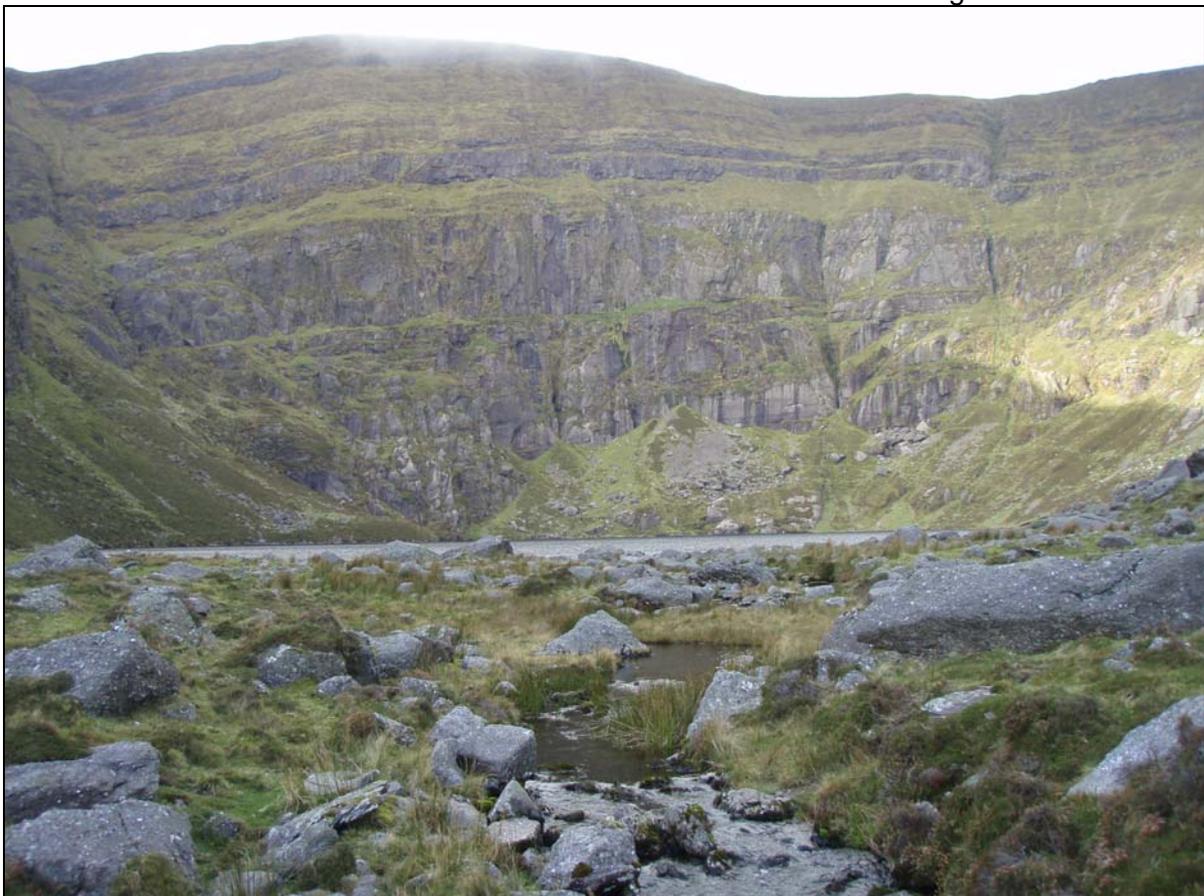
This is probably Ireland's finest example of a corrie. This corrie is part of a complex of Quaternary geology of national importance.

Management/promotion issues

The corrie has a rough pathway up to it, and little promotional signage in the general area. 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 view into the corrie from the arête on the southern side of Coumshingaun.



The view into the corrie backwall from the floor of the basin.

