

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Countay
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)	Comeragh Mountain
NEAREST TOWN	Lemybrien
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 14
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	229178 108560
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	75 1/2 inch Sheet No. 22

Outline Site Description

Countay is a deep glacial corrie, situated along the southern flank of the Comeragh Mountains, seven kilometres northwest of Lemybrien.

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 age. The rock itself is mostly conglomerate.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This corrie comprises a wide, deep hollow, which is up to 600m wide, with a particularly steep, rocky, western backwall. The corrie itself is up to 180m in height and a number of small lakes lie at the base of the feature, nestled within fine hummocky moraines.

The moraines are accumulations of boulders and bouldery debris, which built up at the edge of the glacier which occupied the corrie at the end of the last Ice Age.

Site Importance

This is a nice example of a wide, deep corrie, which is a particularly areally-extensive feature. The fact that the feature backs on the Coumfea means the corrie experience is heightened from walking the separating ridge between them. This is part of a complex of Quaternary geology of national importance.

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).



Coumtyay viewed from the east side.



The backwall at the northern end of Coumtyay.



