

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Crotty's Lough Corrie		
Other names used for site	Lough Coum Gabhartha		
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary		
TOWNLAND(S)	Ross, Coolnalingady		
NEAREST TOWN	Kilmactomas		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 6 and 7		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	232670 112600		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	75	1/2 inch Sheet No.	22

Outline Site Description

Crotty's Lough Corrie is a deep glacial corrie situated along the northeastern flank of the Comeragh Mountains.

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 is of Devonian age, informally called the Old Red Sandstone. The rock itself is mostly conglomerate.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

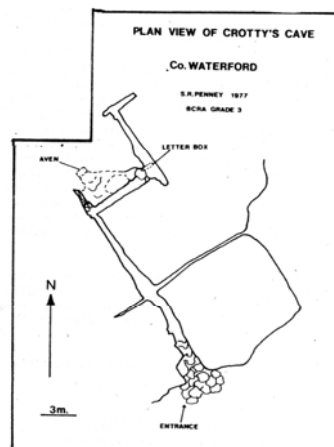
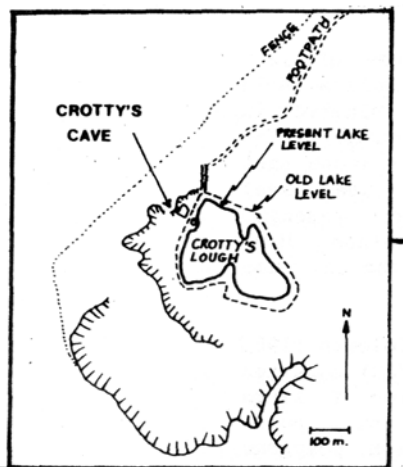
This corrie has an almost-vertical backwall up to 250m in height. Crotty's lake floors the feature and the corrie is bounded on the northeastern side by a high moraine feature, which itself is up to 30m high. The moraine comprises well-drained, bouldery material, and the area around and northeast of Crotty's Lough Corrie is littered with large erratic boulders. The backwall of the corrie is formed in well bedded sandstone, which has beds up to 2m thick, and which has been eroded and fractured to form some unusual, blocky, rock formations. The most impressive of these is Crotty's Rock itself. They also include Crotty's Cave, which is a fissure cave, not a karstic cave.

Site Importance

This is a fine example of a corrie and as the feature is particularly narrow (only 400m across) the steepness and height of the backwall is marked. 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 no 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).





Crotty's Lough, bounded by a high moraine ridge at its northern side.



The steep northwestern backwall of Crotty's Lough corrie.



Some of notable rock buttresses in the backwall of Crotty's Lough corrie.

