

# WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Sgilloge Loughs Corrie</b>		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH7 Quaternary</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Curraghduff</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>230000 111400</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b>	<b>22</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

Sgilloge Loughs Corrie is a deep glacial corrie situated along the northern 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 itself 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 230m in height. Two pater noster lakes floor the feature, so called because they form a series of linear lakes connected by a single stream, similar to the form and outline of rosary beads (hence 'Pater Noster', or 'Our Father' in Latin).

The corrie is bounded by a particularly impressive end moraine ridge, which stretches across the entrance to the valley and partially bounds the lake features. The moraine comprises well-drained, bouldery material, and the area around Sgilloge Loughs Corrie is littered with large erratic boulders.

The ice has scoured out blocks of these leaving some spectacular rock crags and benches along the valley backwall and sides.

## **Site Importance**

This is a particularly impressive corrie feature, being wide and steep. The rock crags and benches also add to its uniqueness. This 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).



Sgillio Loughs Corrie, with two lakes at its base.



View west across the corrie backwall.



The large end moraine ridge can be clearly seen at the far side of the lake viewed from the corrie backwall.



