

# WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Sluggera Crossroads</b>
Other names used for site	Sluggera sink
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH1 Karst</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Monea</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	<b>Ardmore</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>Waterford 38 and 40</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>217655 78192</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	82 <b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b> 22

## **Outline Site Description**

The Sluggera Crossroads site comprises a small crag of karstified bedrock outcrop and a sinking stream disappearing into the rock face.

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

The feature is a karstic sink formed within Waulsortian limestones. These limestones are often quite massive but do possess well developed enlarged fractures where karstification does occur. The limestone valley between Ardmore and Whiting Bay has few bedrock outcrops. The fact that the sink is present shows that the karst network deep under the valley surface is relatively well developed.

The stream, which sinks into the rock at Sluggera, rises several hundred metres to the south of the feature, and itself emerges from a karstic spring. The area therefore provides a window into an otherwise-underground subsurface drainage network.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

Karstification is an important process in Irish hydrogeology. It involves the enlargement of rock fissures when groundwater dissolves the fissure walls as it flows through them. It usually occurs in 'cleaner', relatively pure limestones.

The sink at Sluggera Crossroads is one of only a handful in Waterford. The Irish word 'Sluggera' means 'sink', and as the crossroads is so named this makes the feature important in a local folklore sense also.

## **Site Importance**

This is a site with good teaching potential on karst and the presence of underground drainage in some of the limestone lowlands in Ireland. It is of County Geological Site importance.

## **Management/promotion issues**

The sink itself lies beside a wide verge at the roadside, making parking and inspection of the feature relatively easy. The crag itself is protected by relatively dense vegetation, however. A signboard at that road verge with the folklore and geological importance of the feature detailed might enhance the site as a local landscape feature that might be visited on a trip to Ardmore.



The sluggera at Ardmore Crossroads, from the southwest, behind the roadsigns.



The nettle strewn interior of the sluggera obscures the small sinking stream.



The stream sinking against the rock face at the north side of the sluggera, is only a trickle in summer, but much more substantial in winter.



