

WICKLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Powerscourt Waterfall
Other names used for site	Powerscourt Corrie, Powerscourt
IGH THEME	IGH 7 Quaternary, IGH 14 Fluvial and lacustrine
TOWNLAND(S)	Deerpark
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Enniskerry
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	7
ITM CO-ORDINATES	719573E 712093N (at waterfall)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	56 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO: 16

Outline Site Description

A large corrie with a notable waterfall in the corrie backwall.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock in the site is the Ordovician Maulin Formation but the corrie is of Quaternary age.

Main Geological Interest

The Powerscourt corrie is a fine example of glacial erosion, where accumulated ice has scoured out a deep basin, with a steep backwall. The waterfall in the back of the corrie flows over Ribband Group schists in the metamorphic aureole of the Leinster Granite. The cleavage (or schistosity) dips steeply outwards, paralleling the sides of the granite pluton. This forms the surface over which the water cascades. The contact between schist and granite is some distance upstream of the waterfall.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

It is an important site for both the glacial feature and for the geological influence of the rocks themselves on the formation of the waterfall.

Management/promotion issues

The Powerscourt Estate controls access to the base of the corrie and the waterfall and charge a significant fee for visitors to get to the site by road. It can be seen from very few vantage points, without walking on forest paths in the Djouce Woods or Crone Woods.



Powerscourt corrie from the southern side in Djouce woods.



Left: Powerscourt waterfall at the base



Right: Powerscourt waterfall viewed from the east, by the roadside in Djouce woods.



