

WICKLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Snugborough		
Other names used for site	Snugborough Pingo Rampart, Snugborough Pingo		
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary		
TOWNLAND(S)	Snugborough		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Avoca		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	40		
ITM CO-ORDINATE	724348E 678350N (centre of feature)		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	62	GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	19

Outline Site Description

The site comprises a deep hollow along a hedgerow, which separate two fields under pasture. This hollow is a 'pingo rampart' feature.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The pingo rampart rests on bedrock of Ordovician volcanics, but the feature itself is Quaternary in age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The pingo rampart at Snugborough comprises a raised, circular feature which looks like a man-made rampart, but the embankment is actually a natural feature.

The pingo rampart is evidence of the very cold conditions following deglaciation of the locality at the end of the last Ice Age. The feature indicates that permafrost conditions occurred here, meaning the ground was frozen throughout the year. The pingo was formed when upwelling groundwater froze underground in the permafrost zone, accumulating to form a small, ice-cored hill which grew like a pimple, pushing up the glacial sediments as its outer skin. In melting, the sediments slumped to the side to form the rampart, and a deep hollow was left where the ice core once was.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The feature is an excellent example of a periglacial feature; one formed by ice within the permafrost zone, after the glacier ice itself has vacated the area. Pingo features are unusual in Ireland, with notable examples in Cork and Wexford, and this one at Snugborough, being the best examples.

Management/promotion issues

The pingo rampart is best seen from the field itself, but access is across private land and the landowner should be consulted for permission to enter and view.



The pingo rampart at Snugborough, viewed from the west.



View outwards from the base of the pingo at Snugborough.



