MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE: Boyne River, Trim

Other names used for site
IGH THEME:
IGH14 (Fluvial/Lacustrine Geomorphology)
TOWNLAND(S): Numerous
NEAREST TOWN: Trim
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER: 31, 36, 37
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: 284350 258560 = N 8435 5856
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER: 42 1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description
A section of the Boyne River.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
River with anastomosing (distributary) channels.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
Along a 5.5km stretch of the Boyne River, just east of Trim are a number of sub-parallel distributaries known as anastomosing channels. These channels separate from the main river and may flow parallel to it for several kilometres before rejoining it. In the case of this site the anastomosing channels only run for a couple of hundred meters at any one time. These channels tend to form in areas of low relief with shallow gradients and generally have thick clay and silt banks.

Site Importance
This is one of the few examples of an anastomosing channel system in Meath and is therefore recommended as a County Geological Site. Anastomosing channels are not common nationally.

Management/promotion issues
Although these channels can be accessed in some areas, the feature is not readily recognisable from the ground. The use of aerial photography and the old six inch maps are probably the best way to distinguish these features.

Above: Six inch base map and aerial photograph of a representative section of the River Boyne, displaying anastomosing channels.
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