NAME OF SITE           Hollywood Glen
Other names used for site
IGH THEME              IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)            Athgreany, Drumreagh, Conlans, Woodenboley,
                                      Mullycagh, Kilbaylet
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE   Hollywood
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER    15
ITM CO-ORDINATES       693060E 701650N (centre of channel)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 56   GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 16

Outline Site Description
Hollywood Glen comprises a deep channel that was formed by meltwater erosion on the
northwestern flank of the Wicklow Mountains. The channel is oriented generally north–south,
and extends for a distance of approximately 2.5 kilometres.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type,
The feature is formed in an area of bedrock outcrop and subcrop and bedrock outcrops along
the majority of the channel sides, giving the feature its ‘carved out’ appearance. The feature
was etched out by meltwater during deglaciation at the end of the last Ice Age, about 12,000
years ago.

The bedrock in the locality is dominated by schists and quartzites of Ordovician age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
Hollywood Glen is up to 60m deep and has a U-shaped profile, typical of meltwater channels.
The base of the channel is dry, although a shallow drainage ditch has been dug along much
of the southern portion to channel excess surface water during heavy rainfall.

Hollywood Glen is considered to have formed completely in the late-glacial Period. Initially
the glen was a subglacial channel, formed under the ice, but later carried surface glacial
outwash from Glacial Lake Enniskerry southwards. As well as this, the channel carried huge
amounts of subglacial meltwater draining the ice sheet which also covered the Irish Midlands.
This very high energy meltwater flow resulted in Hollywood Glen’s unusual depth and size.

Much of the sides of the channel are very steep, and littered with (sometime huge) boulders,
some in quite precarious positions above the third class road which passes through the
feature. The glen is very narrow and has an irregular long profile, which means that
meltwater was under huge pressure from ice above, thus proving that the channel was
initially subglacial in origin.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA
This is a site with good teaching potential on glacial meltwater erosion, as the feature is
accessible, quite spectacular, and easily viewed from roads. The northern portion of the
channel forms the Hollywood Glen proposed NHA (Site Code 002053).

Management/promotion issues
The location of the channel with a road passing through it means it is easily accessible,
although the flanks are located presumably in private ownership or in commonage. However,
there is no parking in the centre of the channel and it is difficult to stop safely on the road; the
only parking is near the southern end at the entrance to a Coillte forest walk. Good views
can be had from the western slopes of Church Mountain and the western slopes of
Slievecorragh.
Hollywood Glen, viewed from the north.

Two views of Hollywood Glen from the northern side, looking south.