

Appendix 2

Portal tomb sites and soil type.

During the study it appeared that some portal tombs were located at, or close to, the border between different soil types, which may result in difference in vegetation and farming practices. As discussed in Section 4.3 the soil in the Neolithic would not have been significantly different from that in the present, and this may have been a factor in the choice of areas suitable for early farming.

In this appendix all portal tomb sites have been located in relation to current soil profiles, as illustrated in the 1980 National Soil Survey of An Foras Talúntais (now Teagasc), Department of Agriculture (www.agresearch.teagasc.ie/johnstown/soil_maps.asp) . These maps are reproduced by permission of Teagasc.

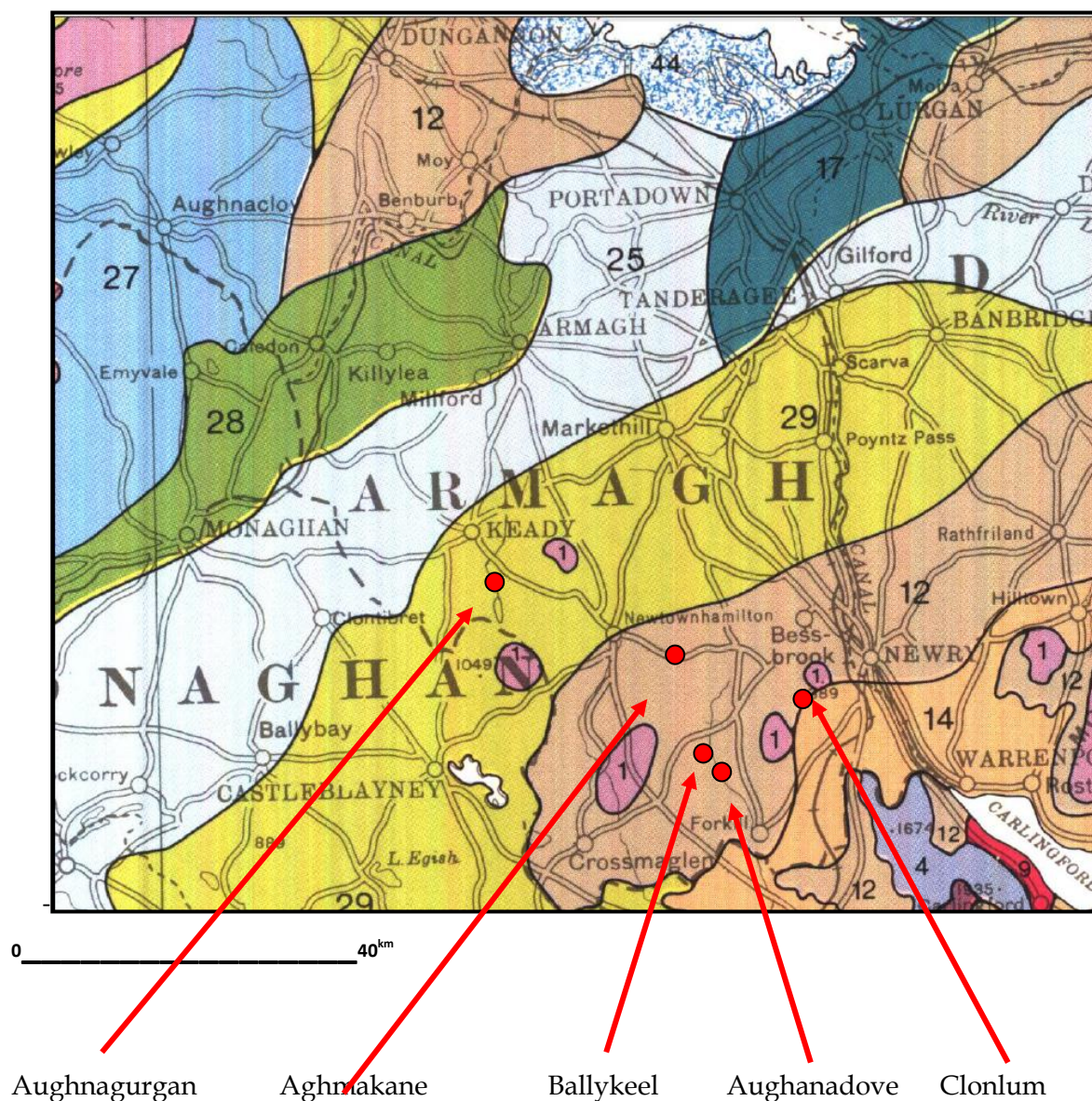
A very simplified description of common soil types illustrates the differences between the main types of soil in Ireland.

Brown earths.	Good fertility, friable texture, easy to work.
Podzols	Poor soil, many nutrients leached out, often found in hilly areas.
Brown podzolics	Similar to podzols but more fertile. Suitable for crops and pasture.
Grey brown podzolics	Similar, fairly fertile but may be of heavier texture.
Gleys	Poorly drained, unsuitable for tillage
Rendzinas	Shallow soil, only suitable for grazing.
Lithosols	Skeletal, stony soils, frequent bare rocks outcropping, rough grazing.
Peats	Unsuitable for farming. Blanket peat unlikely to be present during Neolithic, although basin peats may have been developing.

Common Irish soil types (simplified). Data from An Foras Talúntais Soil Survey Bulletin no, 36, 1980.

This study indicates that the number of portal tombs located on the boundary between soil types is greater than random, and it is suggested that early farmers were well aware of which soils were most suitable. As suggested, they may have marked the limits of cleared land with a portal tomb; the location of a significant proportion on the boundaries between soil types strengthens this idea.

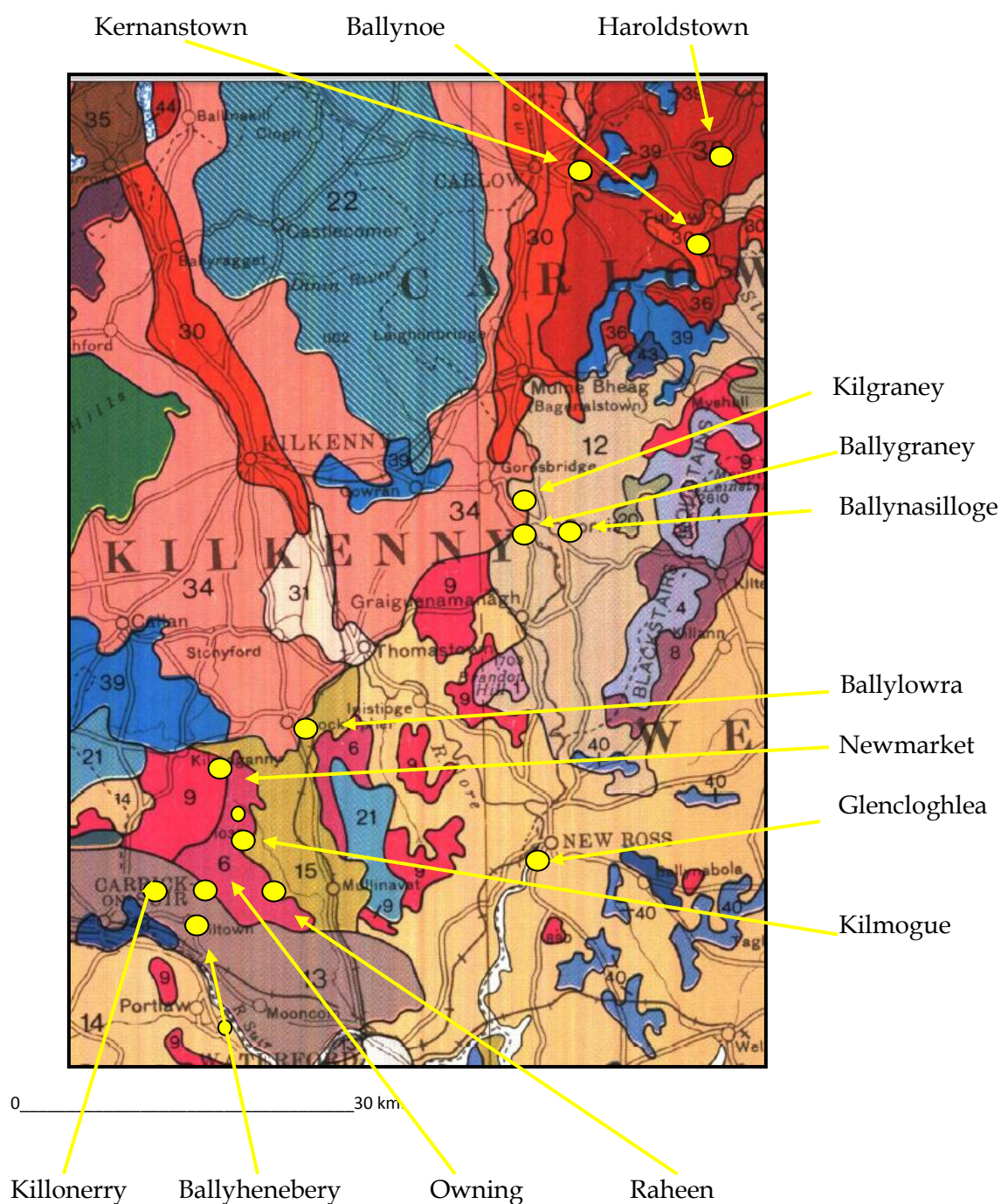
ARMAGH.



SOIL TYPE.

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Peaty podzols. |
| 12 | Acid brown earth (coarse) |
| 14 | Acid brown earth |
| 25 | Gleys |
| 29 | Acid brown earths |

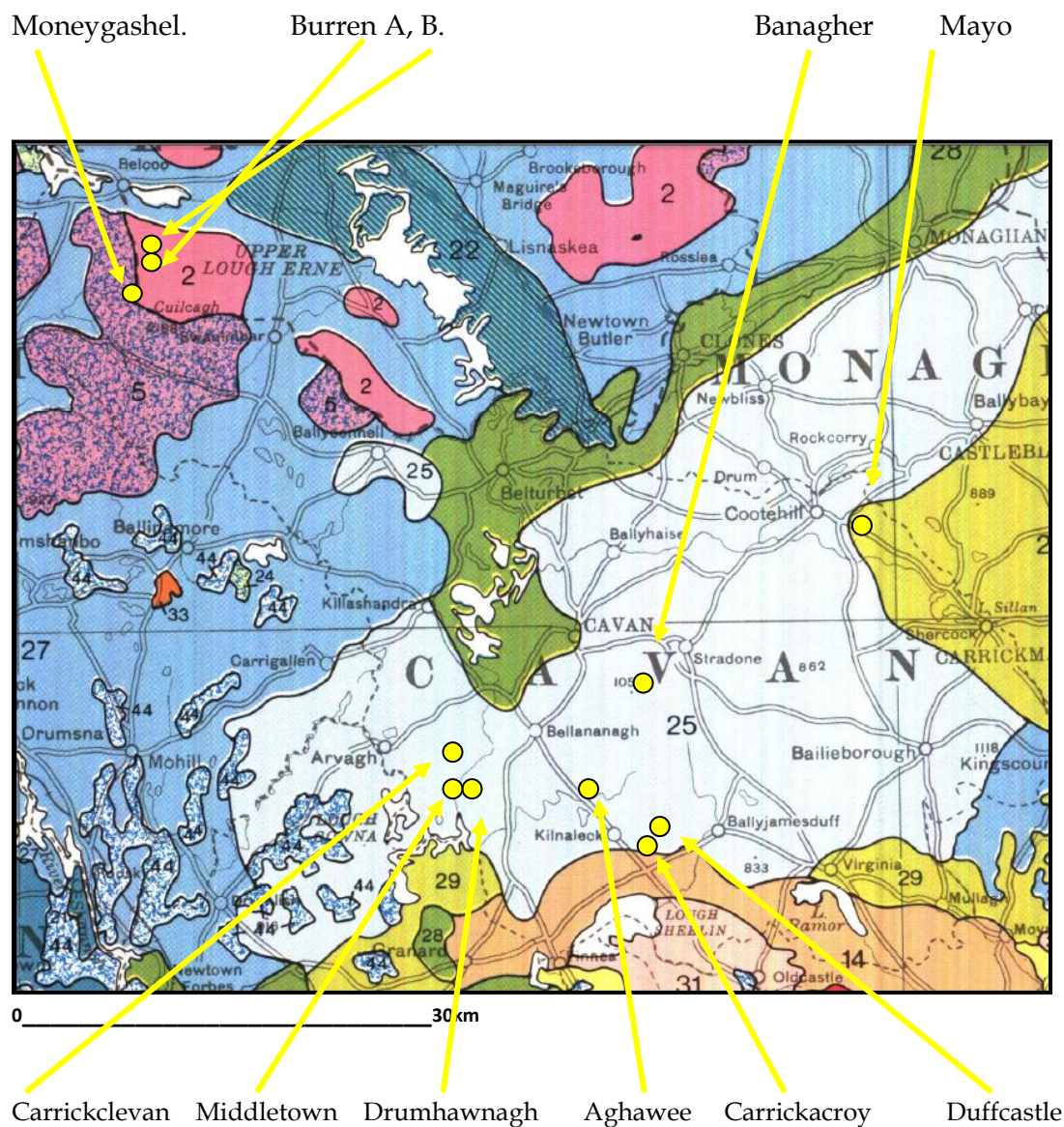
Carlow/Kilkenny.



SOIL TYPES.

6 Brown podzolics.	13 Acid brown earths.	34 Grey brown podzolics.
9 Brown podzolics.	15 Brown podzolics.	36 Grey brown podzolics.
12 Acid brown earths	30 Grey brown podzolics.	40 Gleys.

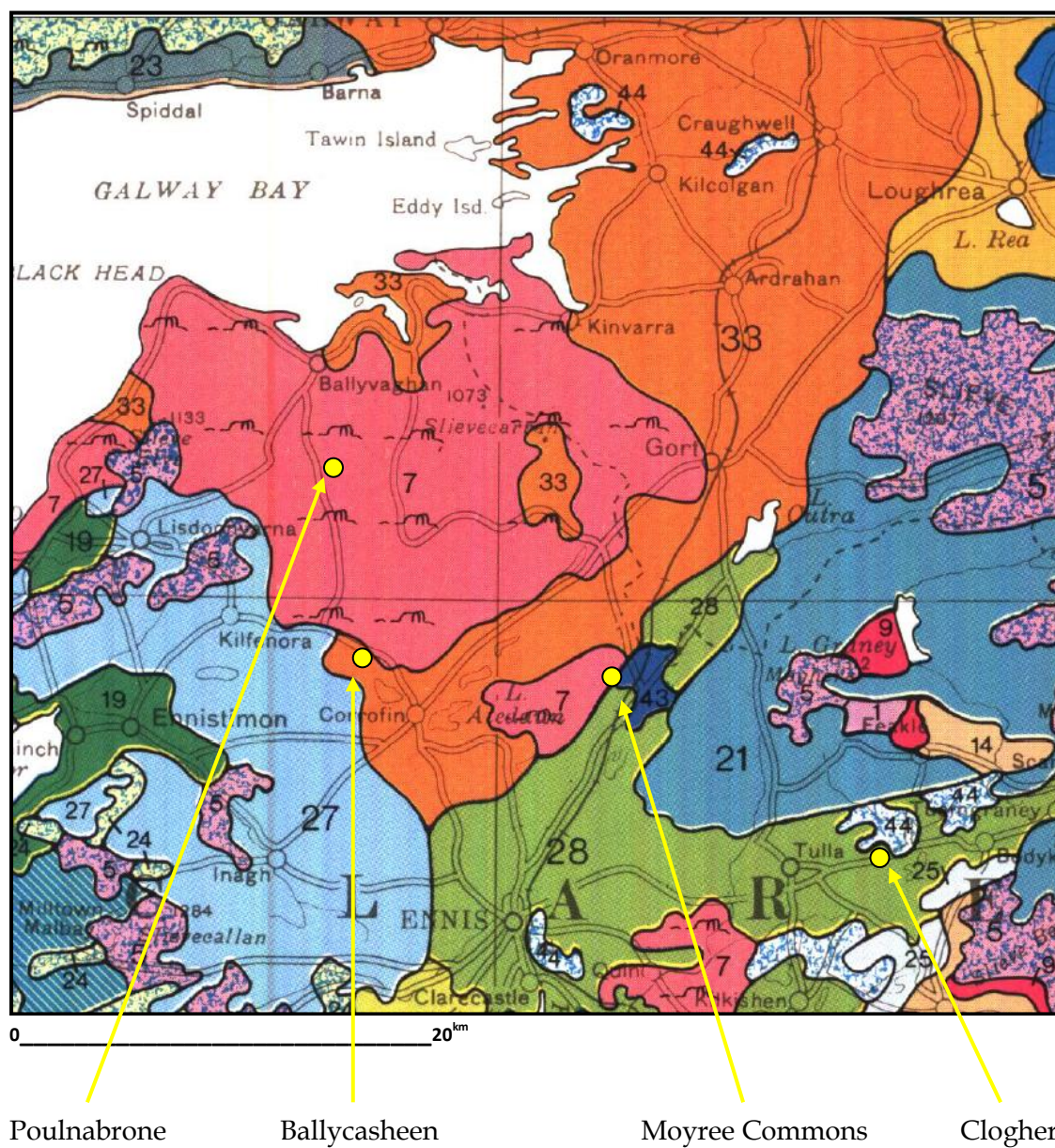
CAVAN.



SOIL TYPES.

2	Blanket peat	5	Blanket peat (high level)
25	Gleys	27	Gleys
29	Acid brown earths.		

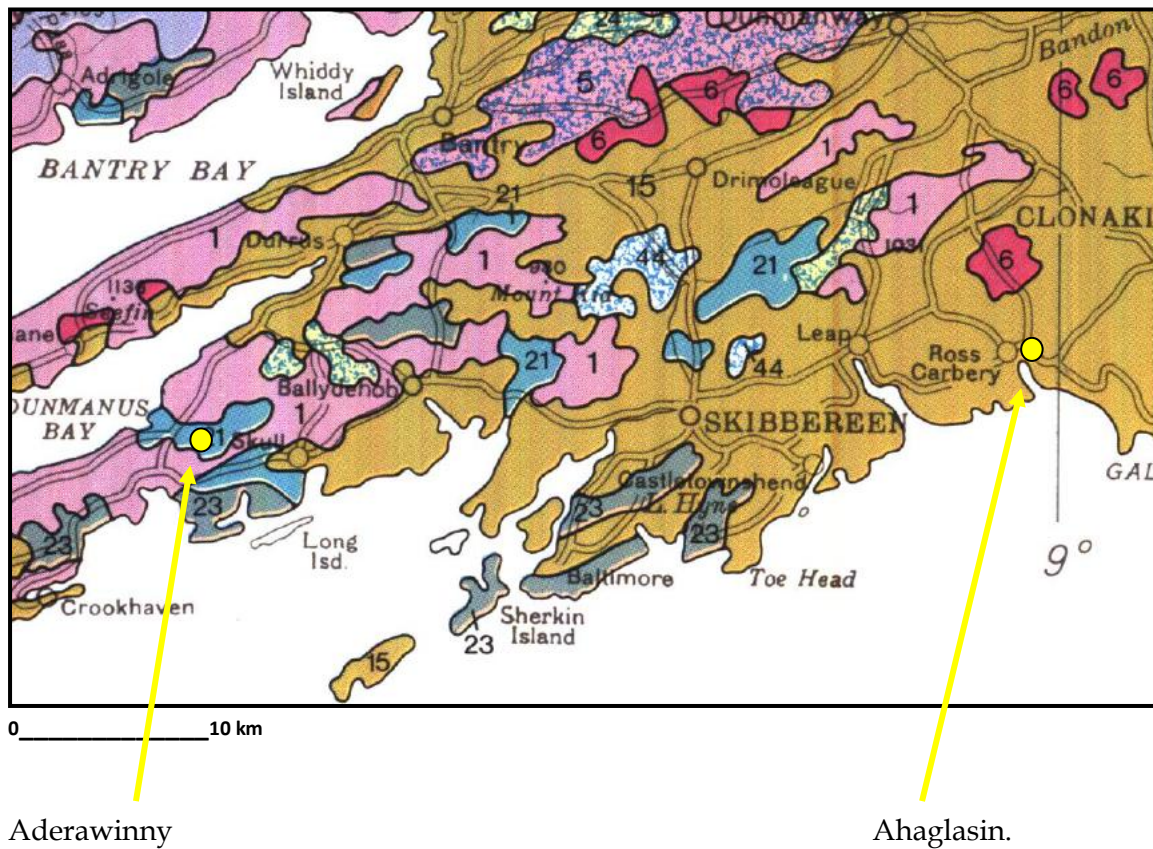
CLARE.



SOIL TYPES

- | | |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 7 | Podzinas with outcropping rock. |
| 21 | Gleys. |
| 28 | Grey brown podzolics. |
| 33 | Shallow brown earths and rendzinas |
| 43 | Gleys |
| 44 | Basin peat. |

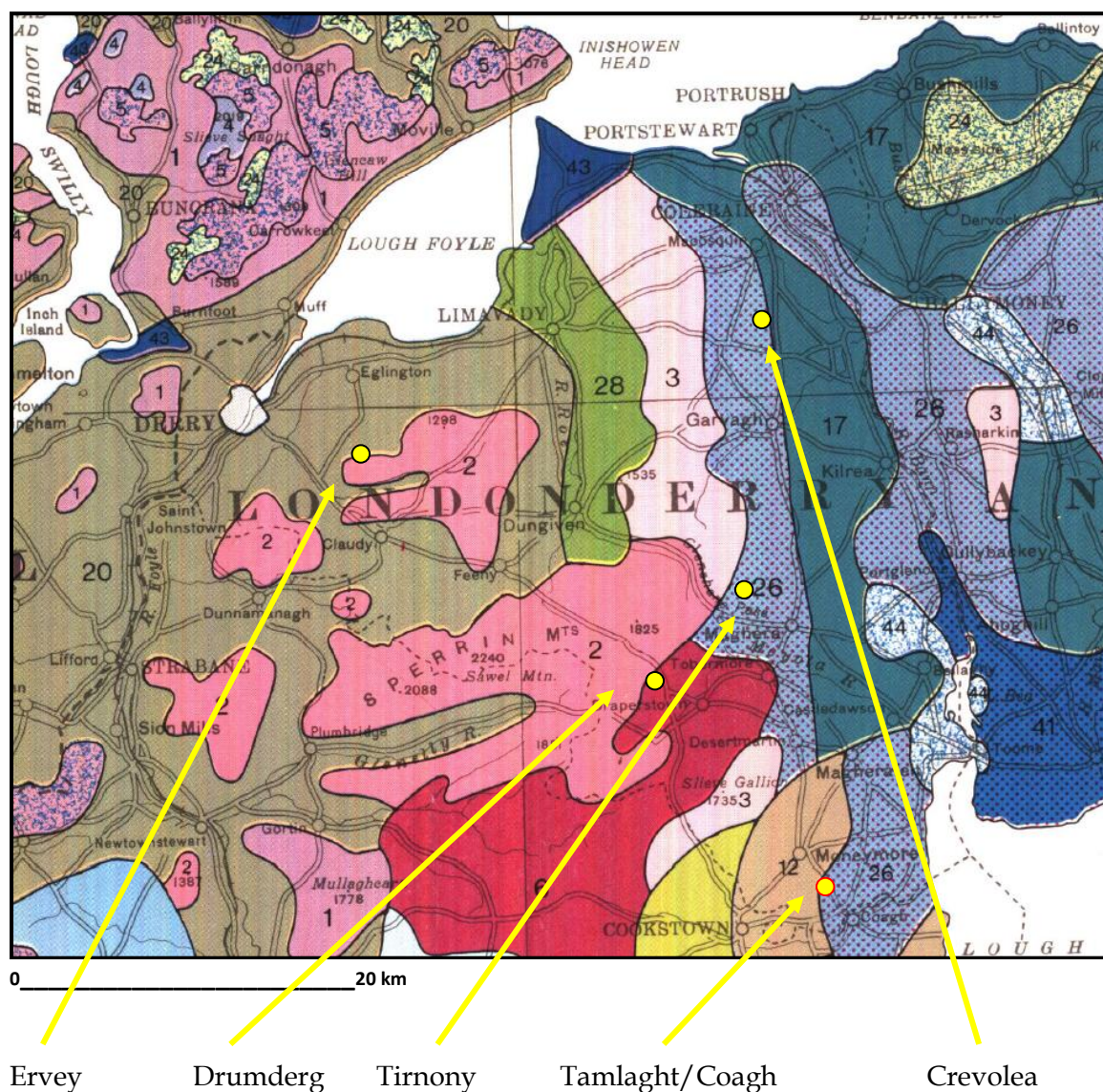
CORK.



SOIL TYPES

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Peaty podzols |
| 15 | Brown podzolics |
| 21 | Gleys |
| 23 | Lithosols |

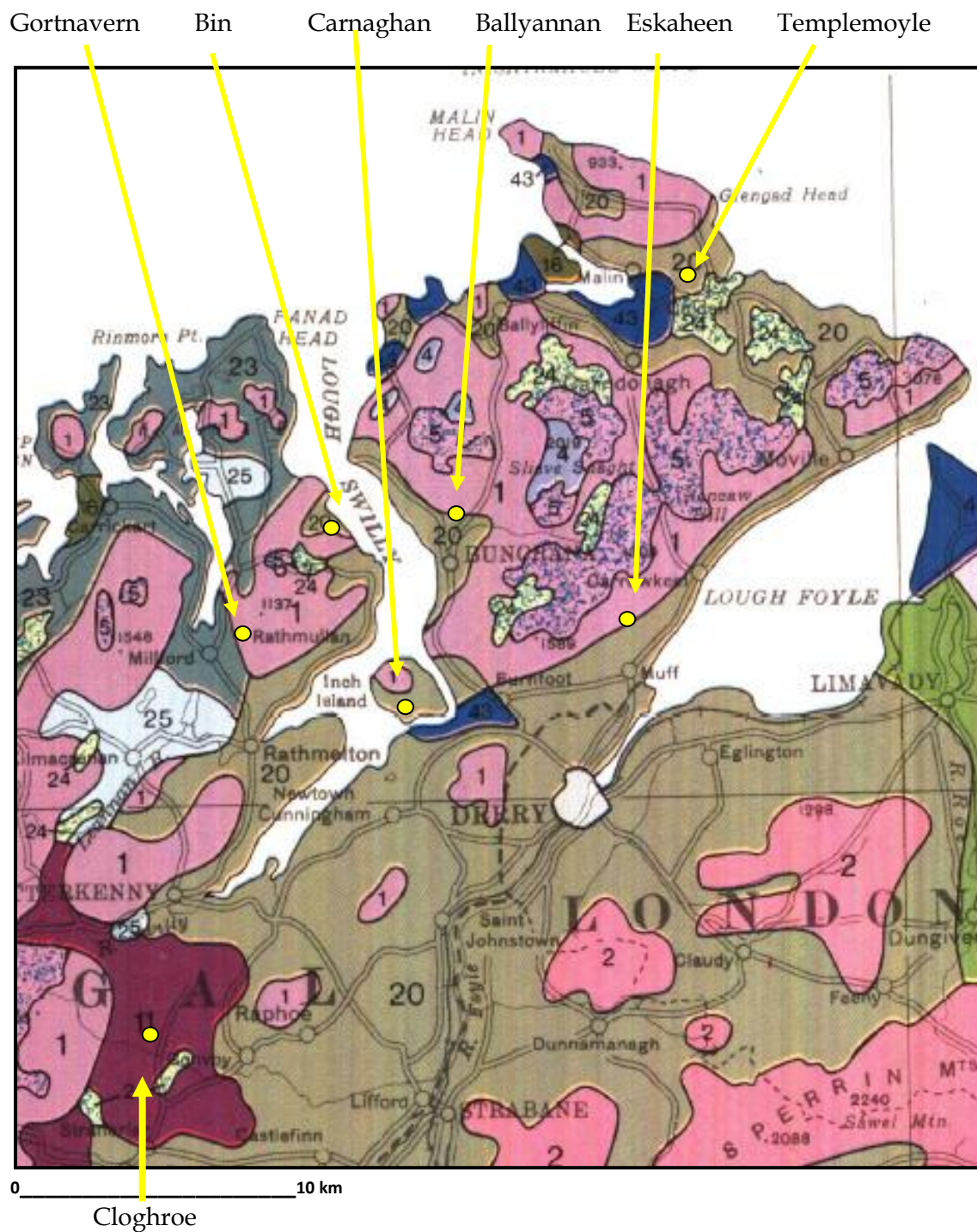
DERRY.



SOIL TYPES

2 Peaty gleys	17 Acid brown earths
6 Brown podzolics	20 Brown podzolics
12 Acid brown earths (coarse)	26 Gleys

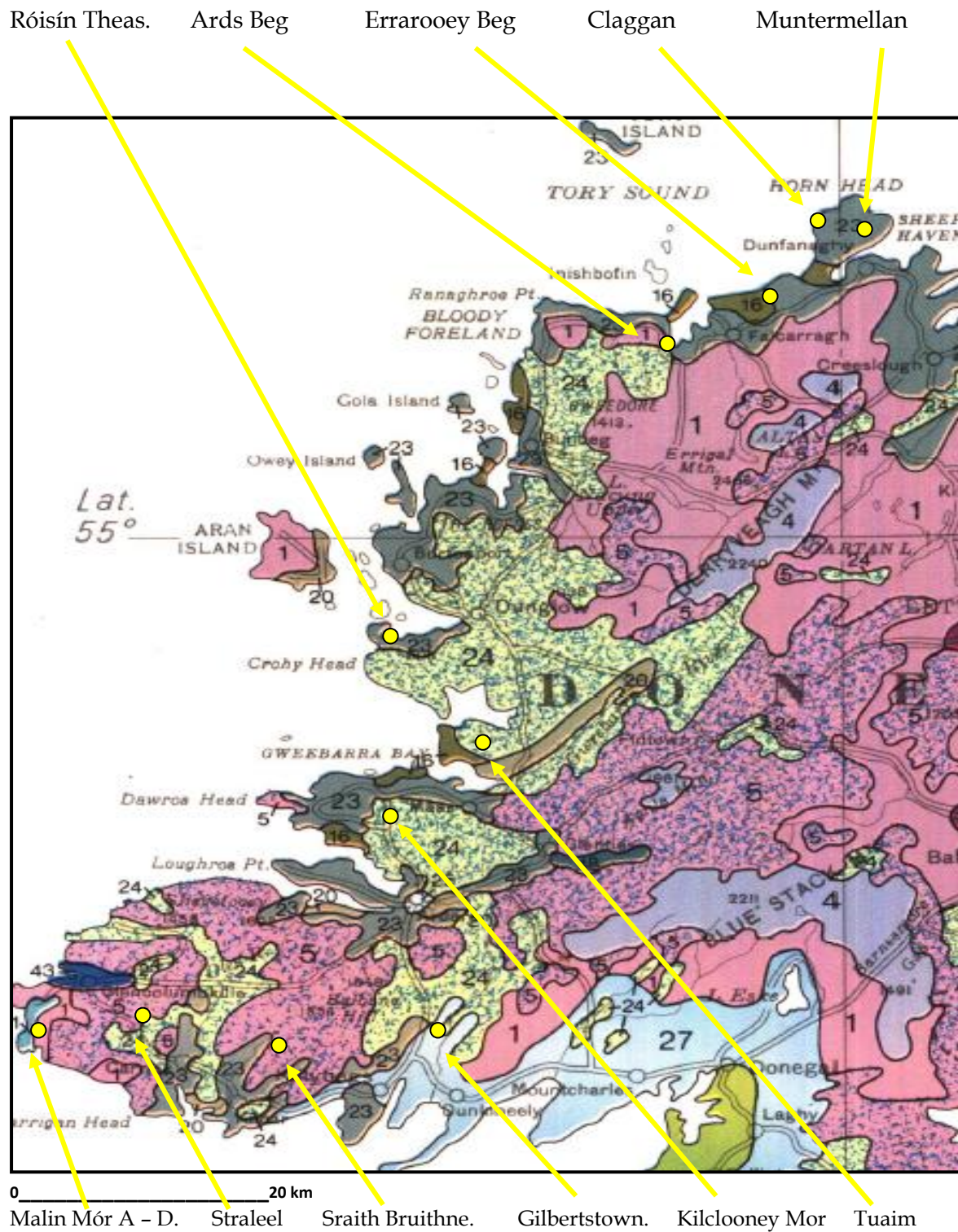
DONEGAL EAST.



SOIL TYPES

1 peaty podzols	23 lithosols	20 brown podzolics.
2 peaty gleys.	24 blanket peat.	
11 gleys	43 gleys (alluvian)	

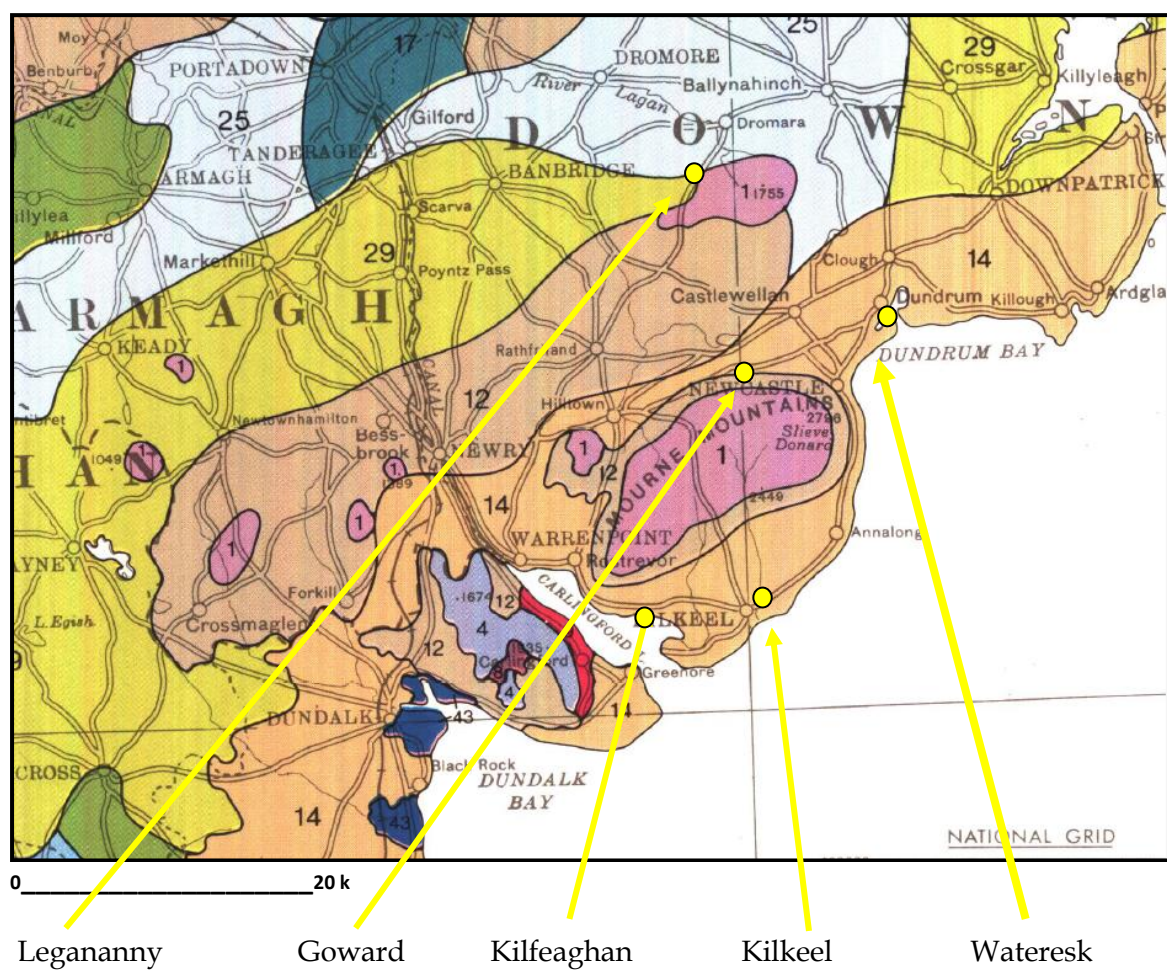
DONEGAL WEST.



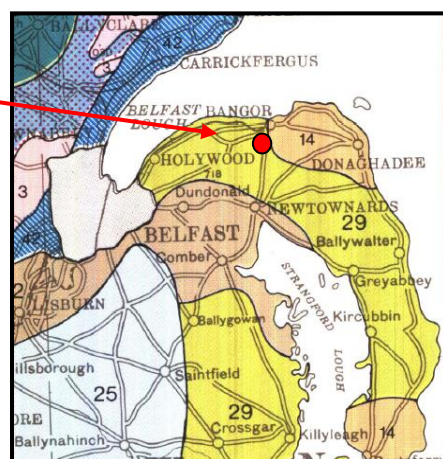
SOIL TYPES

1	Peaty podzols.	20	Brown podzolics.
5	Blanket peat (high).	23	Lithosols.
16	Acid brown earths.	24	Blanket peat (low)
		27	Gleys

DOWN.



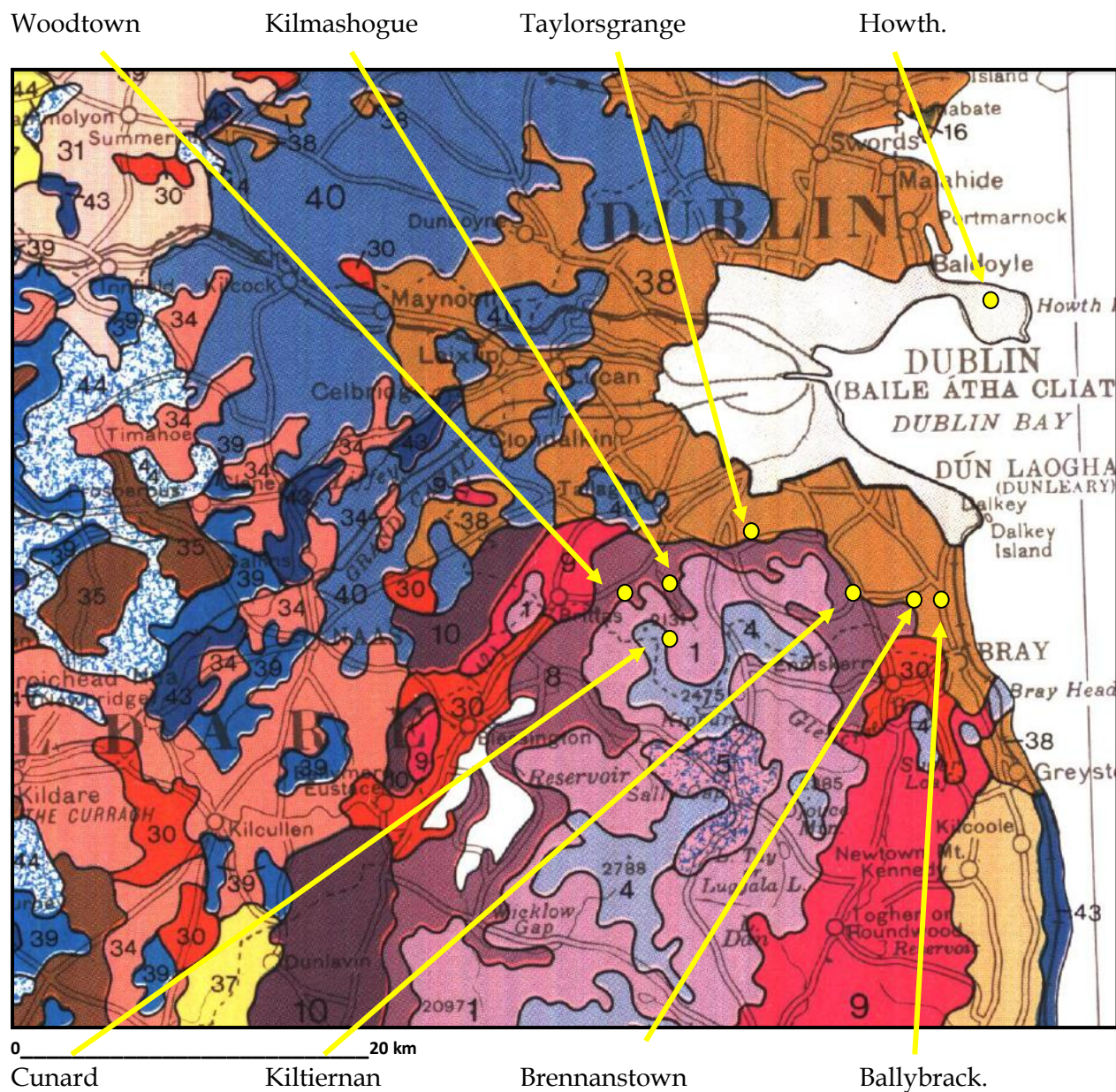
Greengraves.



SOIL TYPES

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Peaty podzols. | 25 Gleys |
| 12 Acid brown earths. | 29 Acid brown earths. |
| 14 Acid brown earths. | |

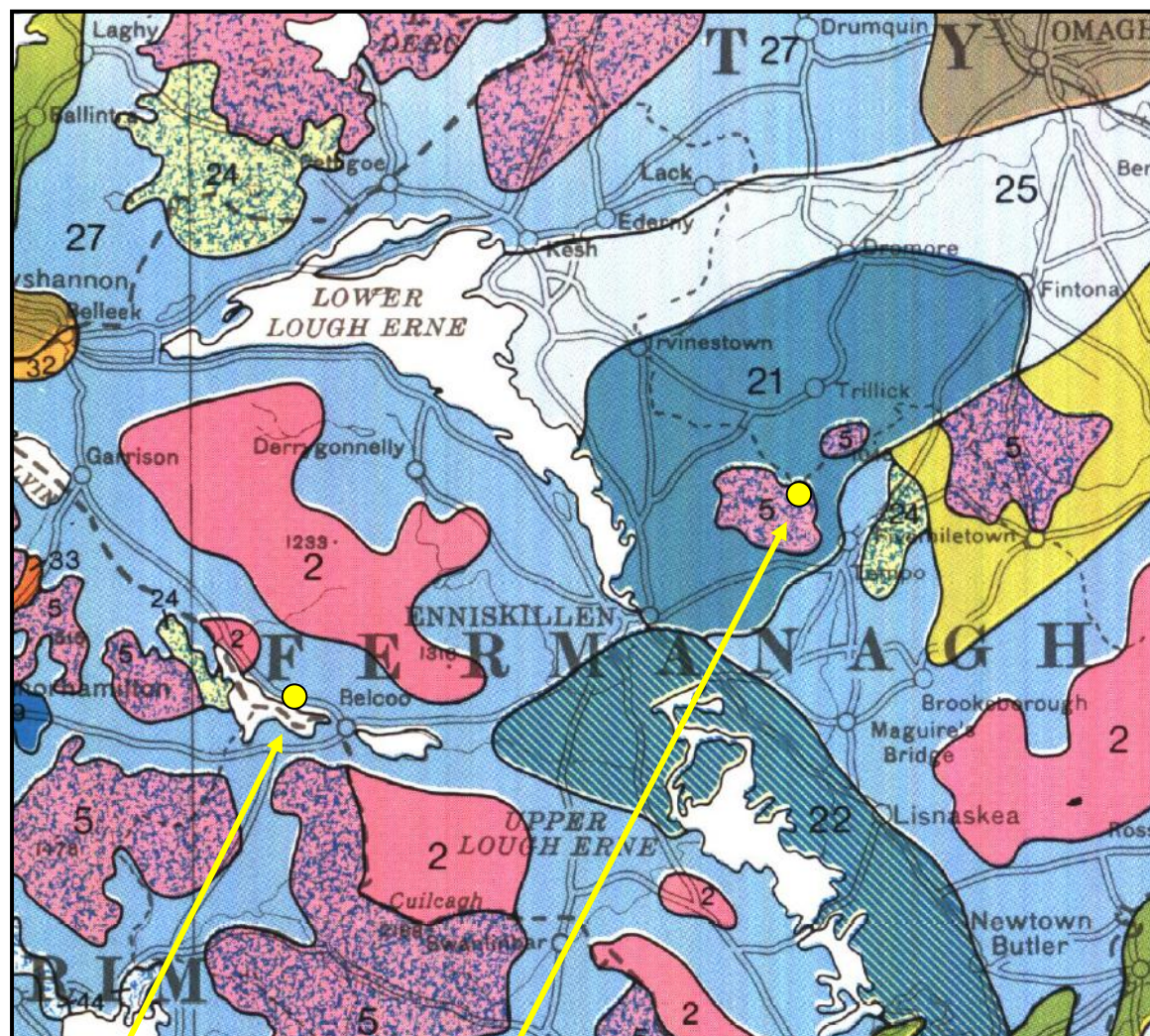
DUBLIN.



SOIL TYPES

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Peaty podzols. | 30 Grey brown podzolics. |
| 4 Lithosols and outcropping rock. | 38 Gleys. |
| 8, 9 Brown podzolics. | |

FERMANAGH.



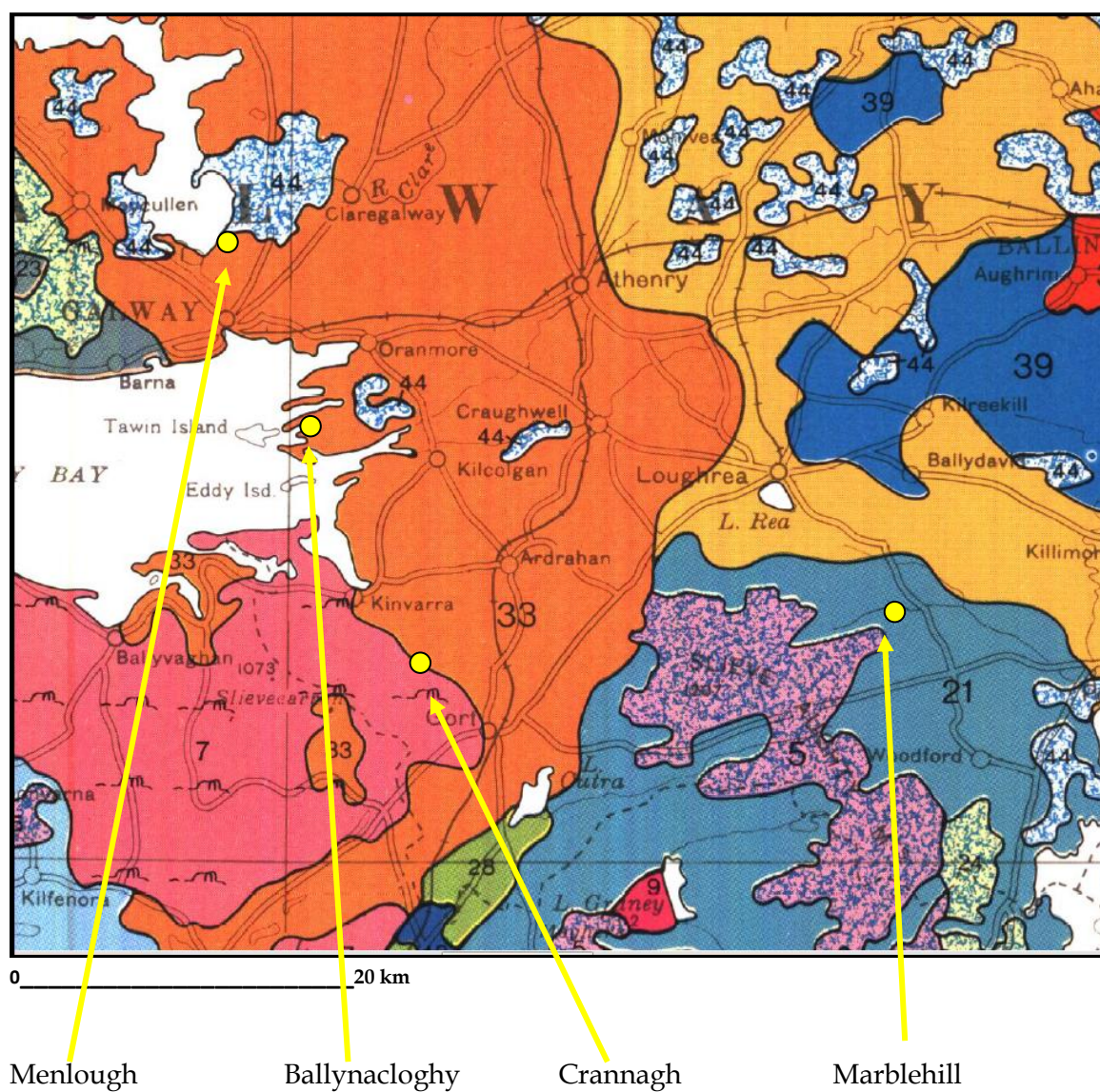
Glengesh

Kilrooskagh

SOIL TYPES

2	Peaty gleys
5	Blanket peat
21	Gleys
27	Gleys

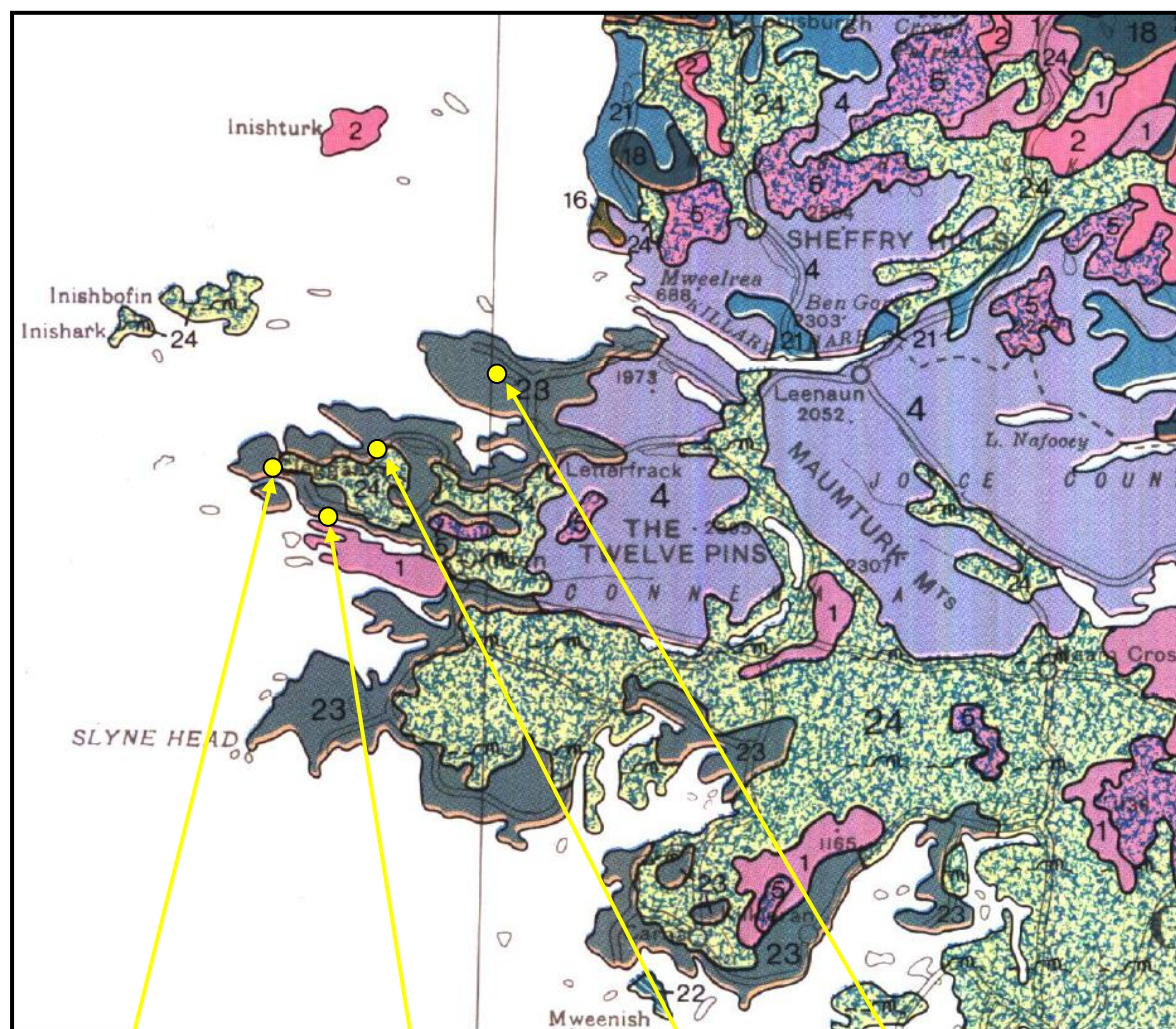
GALWAY EAST.



SOIL TYPES

5	Blanket peat
7	Rendzinas with outcropping rock
21	Gleys
33	Shallow brown earths and rendzinas
44	Basin peat

GALWAY WEST.



Knockavalley

Leaguan

Ballynew

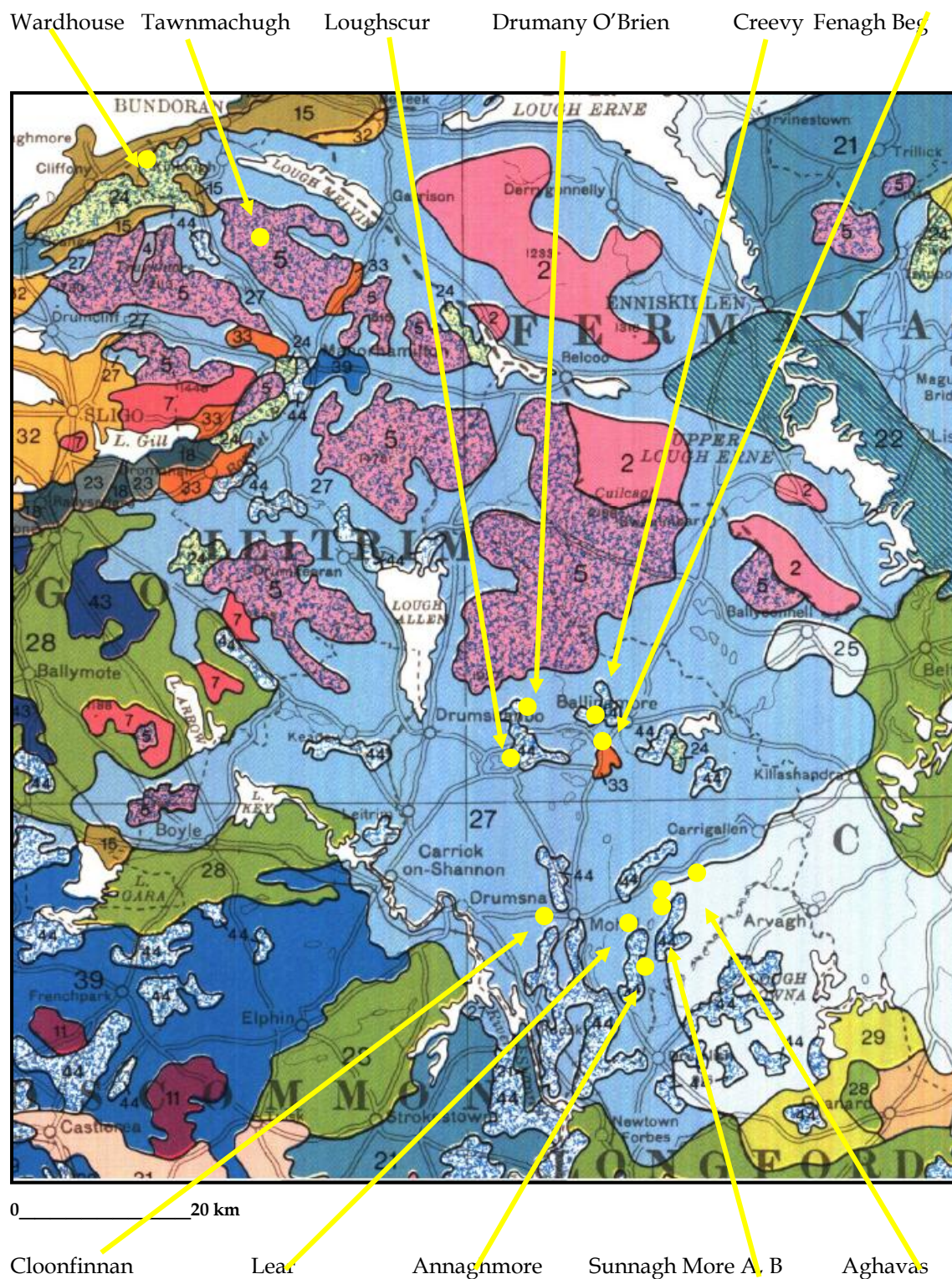
Cloonlooaun

SOIL TYPES

1	Peaty podzols
24	Blanket peat
28	Grey brown podzolics

**Kerry not included - Killacloghane portal tomb not close to soil boundary.

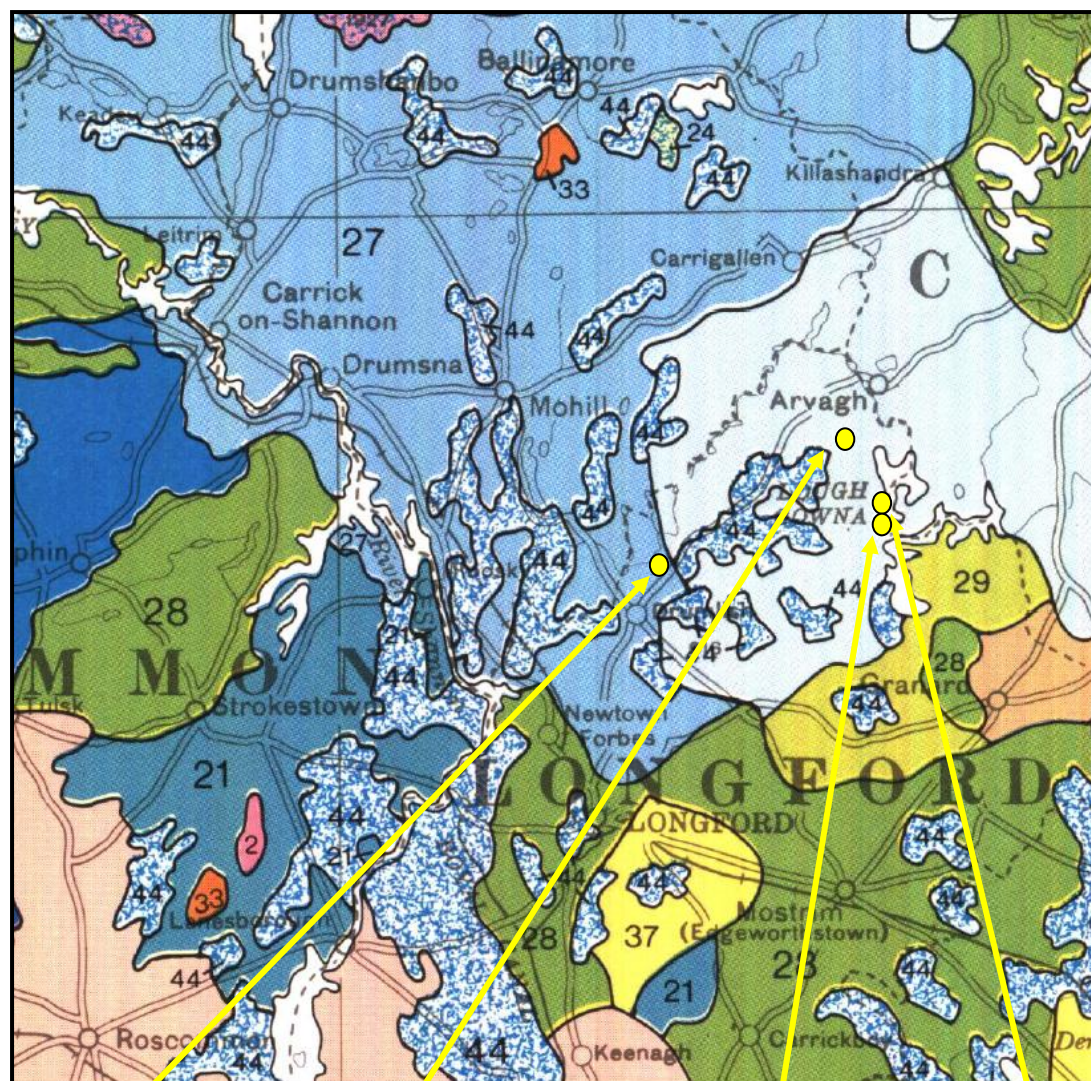
LEITRIM.



SOIL TYPES

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5 Blanket peat (high) | 27 Gleys |
| 15 Brown podzolics. | 33 Shallow brown earth and rendzinas. |
| 24 Blanket peat (low) | 44 Basin peat. |

LONGFORD.



0 15 km

Melkagh

Birrinagh

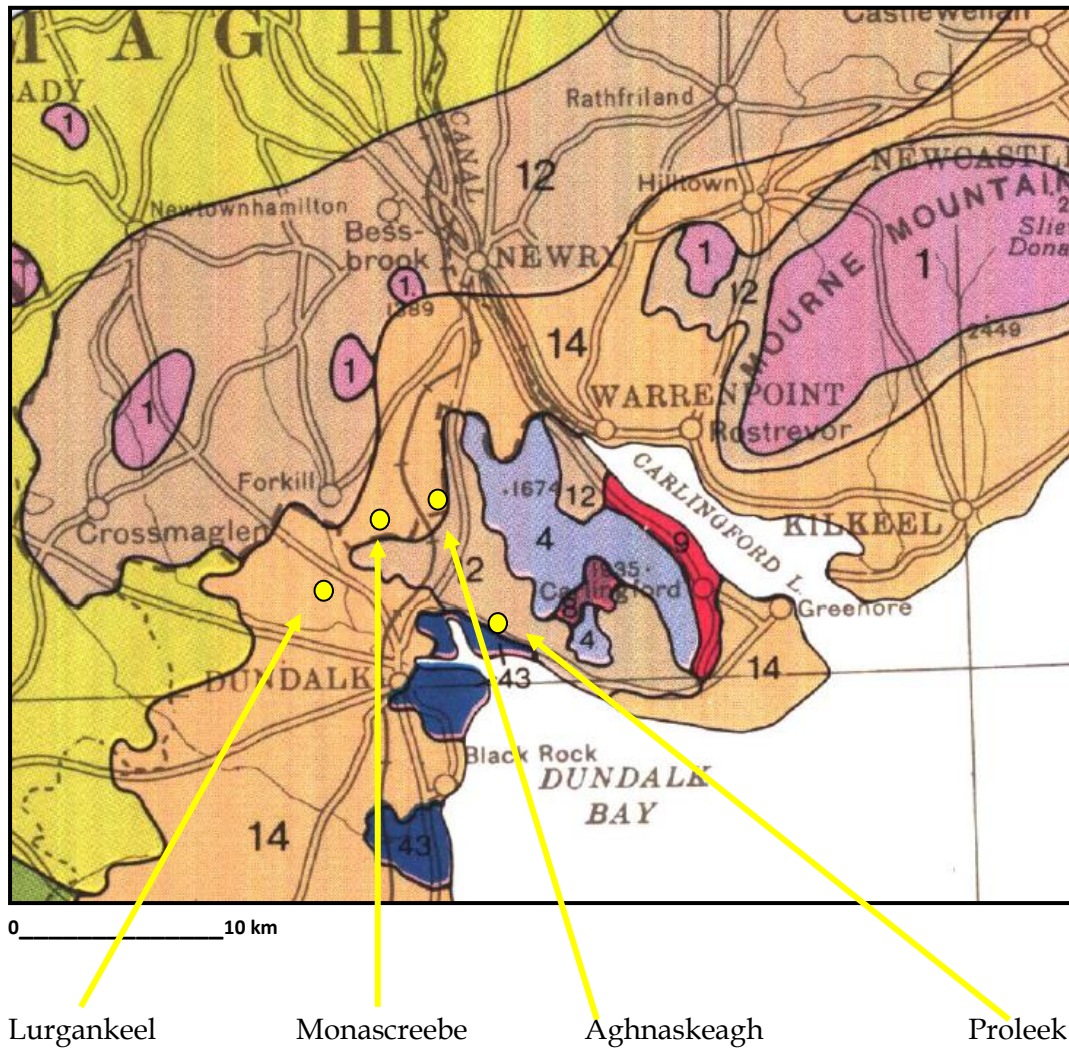
Aughnacliff

Clenragh

SOIL TYPES

25	Gleys
27	Gleys
44	Basin peat

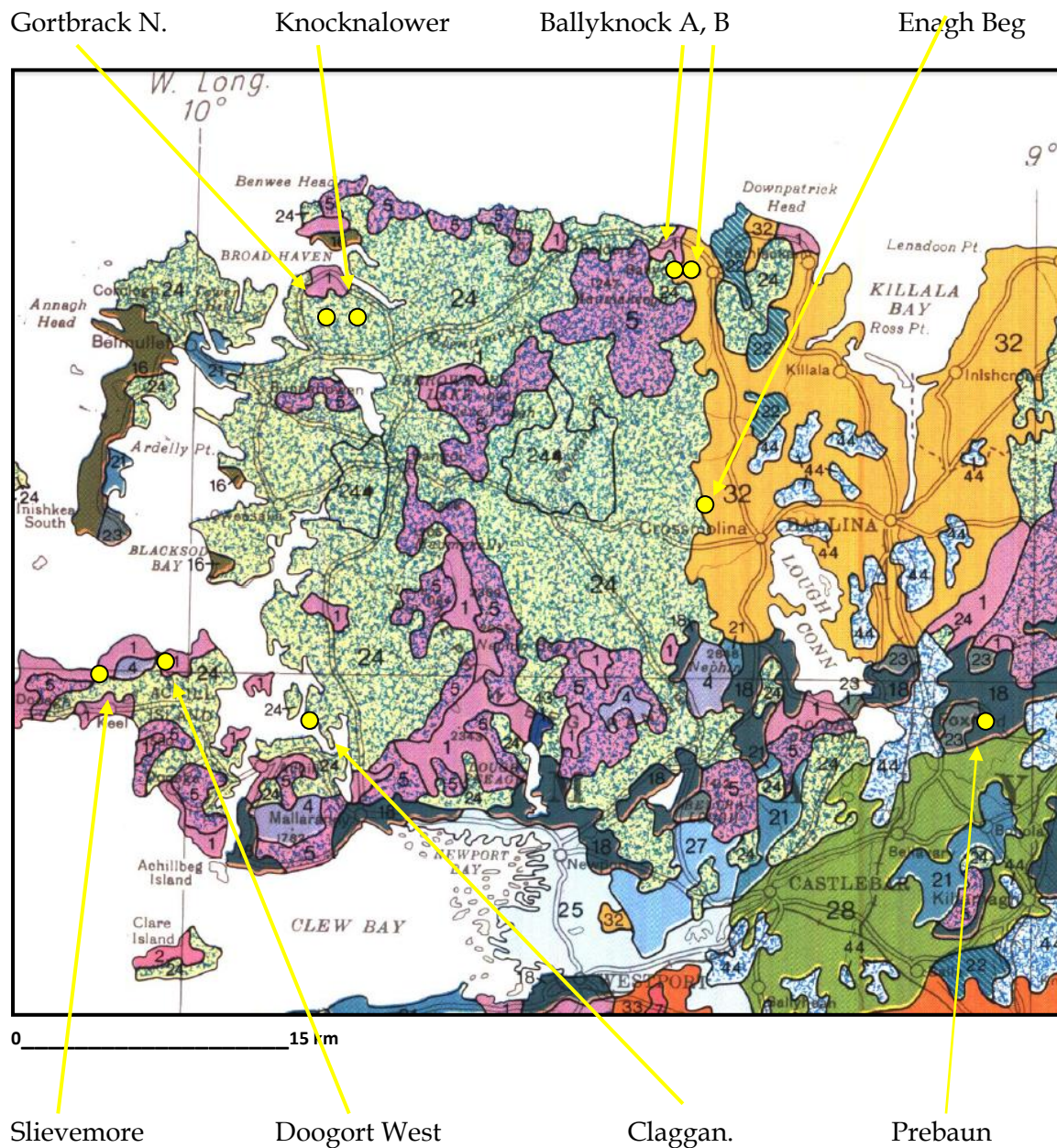
LOUTH.



SOIL TYPES

4	Lithosols and outcropping rocks
12	Acid brown earths (coarse texture).
14	Acid brown earths
43	Gleys

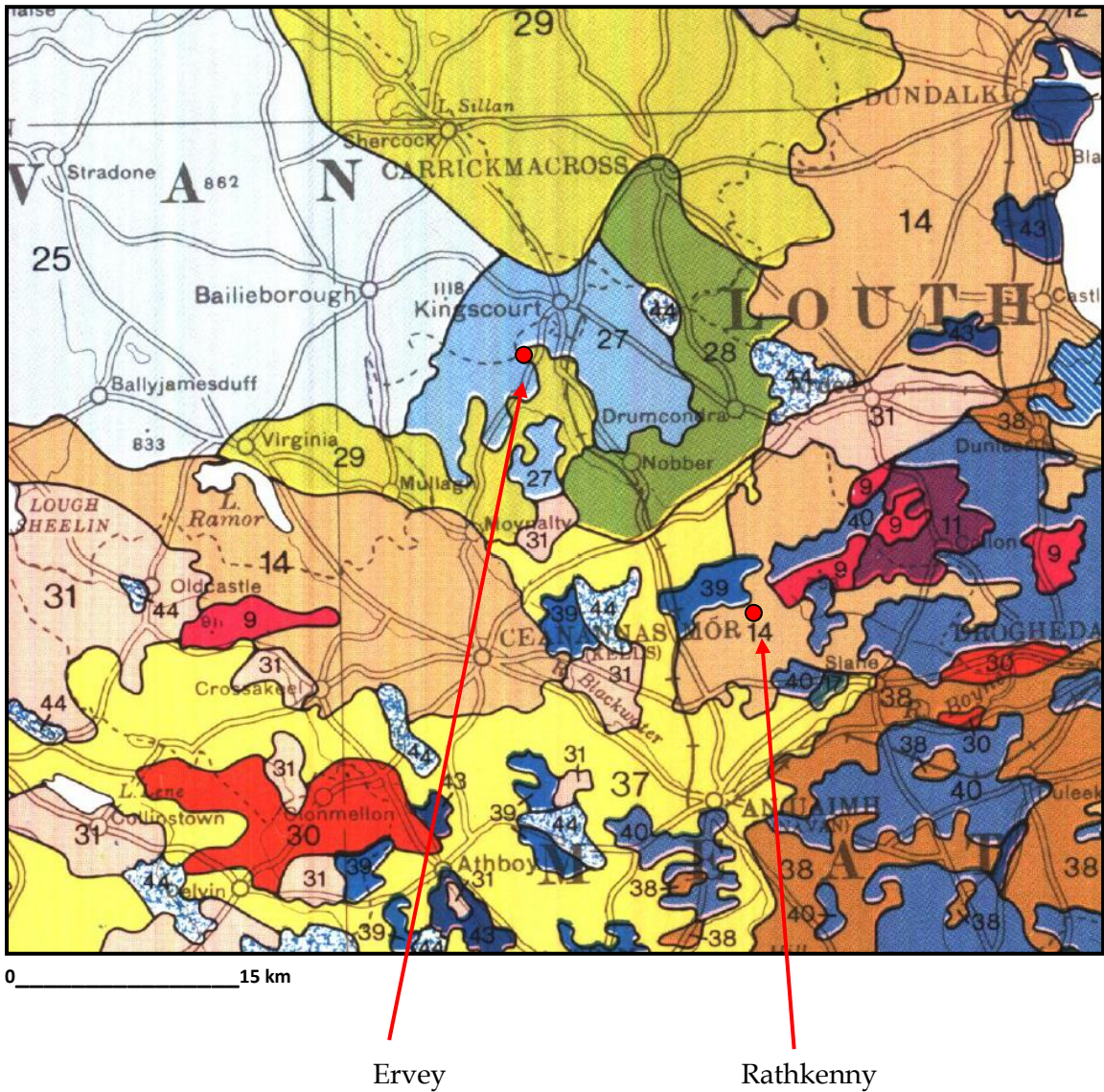
MAYO.



SOIL TYPE

1	Peaty podzols	23	Lithosols
4	Lithosols and outcropping rock	24	Blanket peat (low level)
5	Blanket peat	28	Grey brown podzolics
18	Podzolos	32	Degraded grey brown podzolics
22	Gleys	44	Basin peat

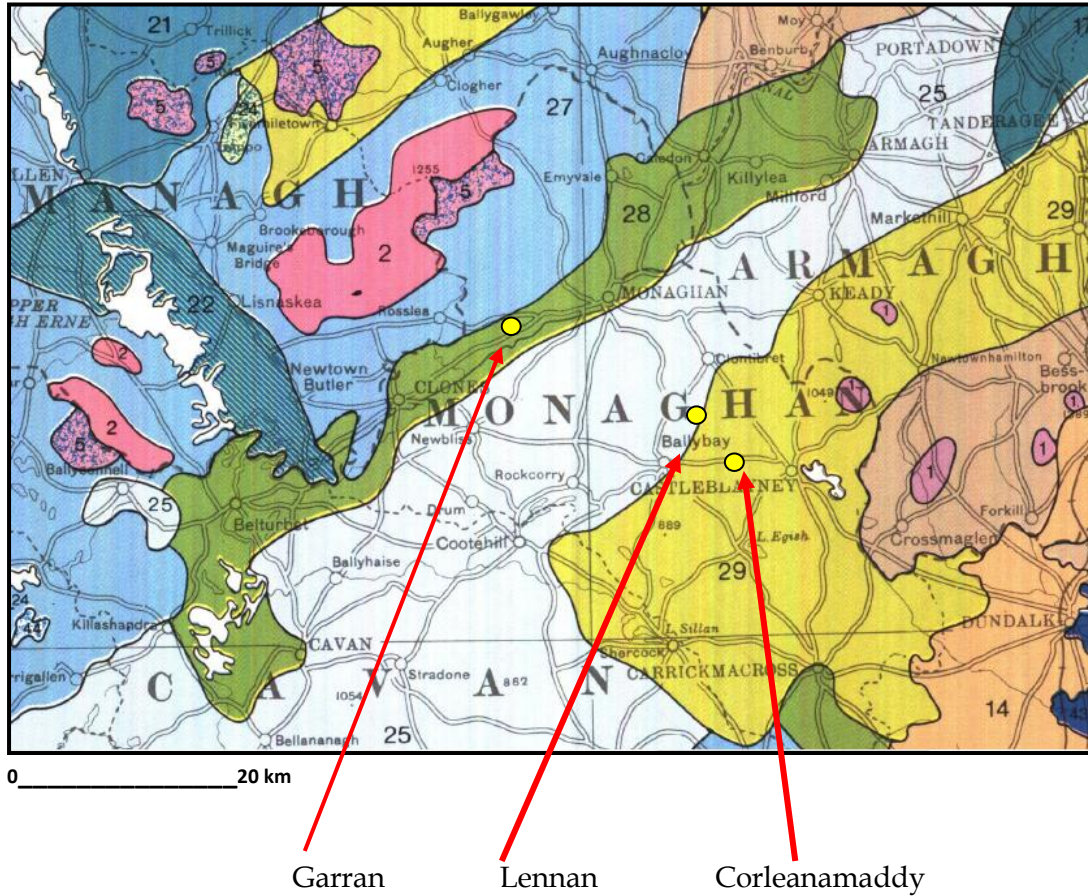
MEATH



SOIL TYPES

9	Brown podzolics	37	Grey brown podzolics
14	Acid brown earths	39	Gleys
27	Gleys	40	Gleys
29	Acid brown earths		

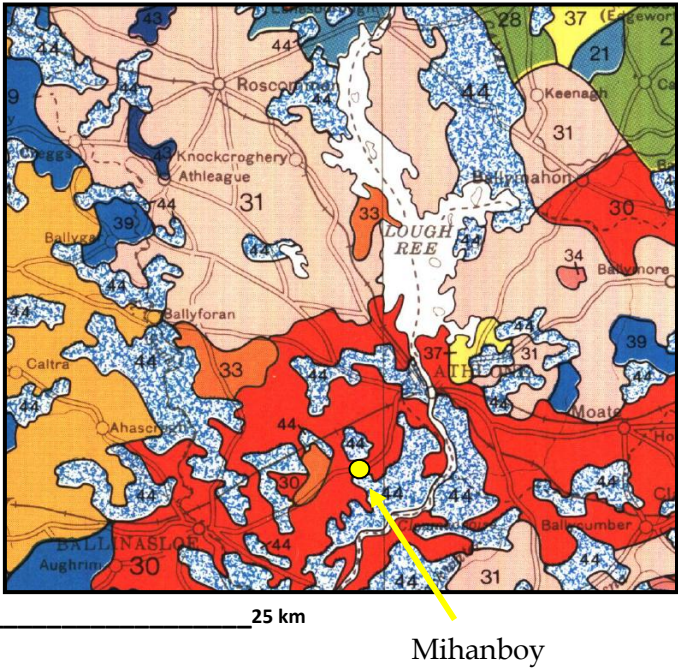
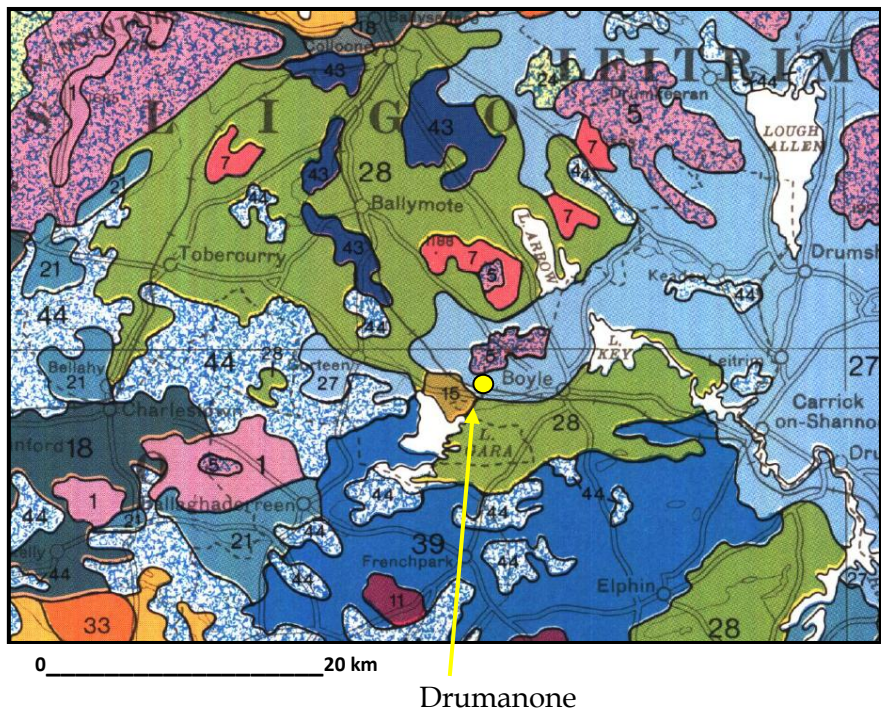
MONAGHAN.



SOIL TYPE

25	Gleys
27	Gleys
28	Acid brown earths
29	Acid brown earths

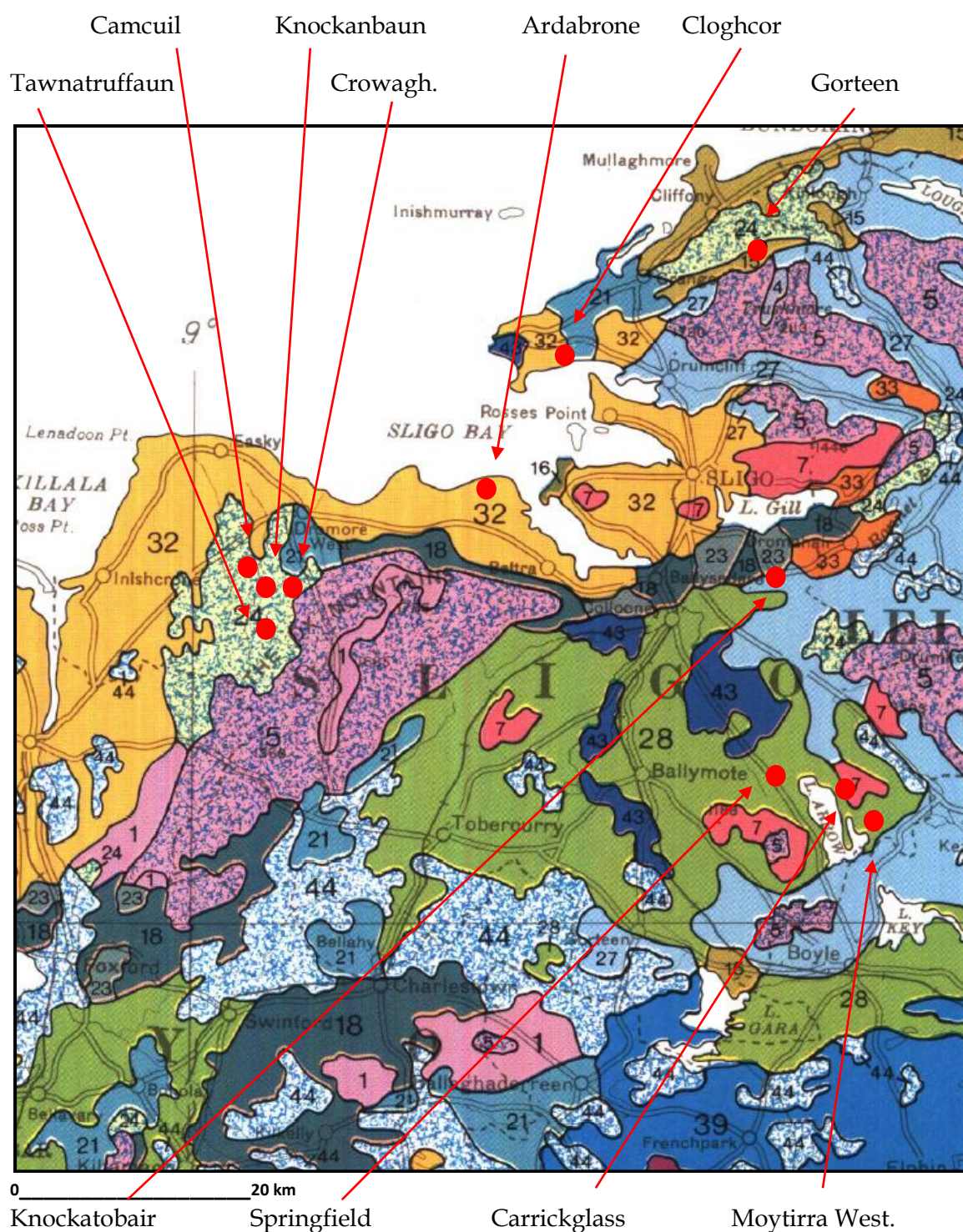
ROSCOMMON.



SOIL TYPE

5	Blanket peat	15	Brown podzolics
27	Gleys	28	Acid brown earths
30	Grey brown podzolics	44	Basin peat

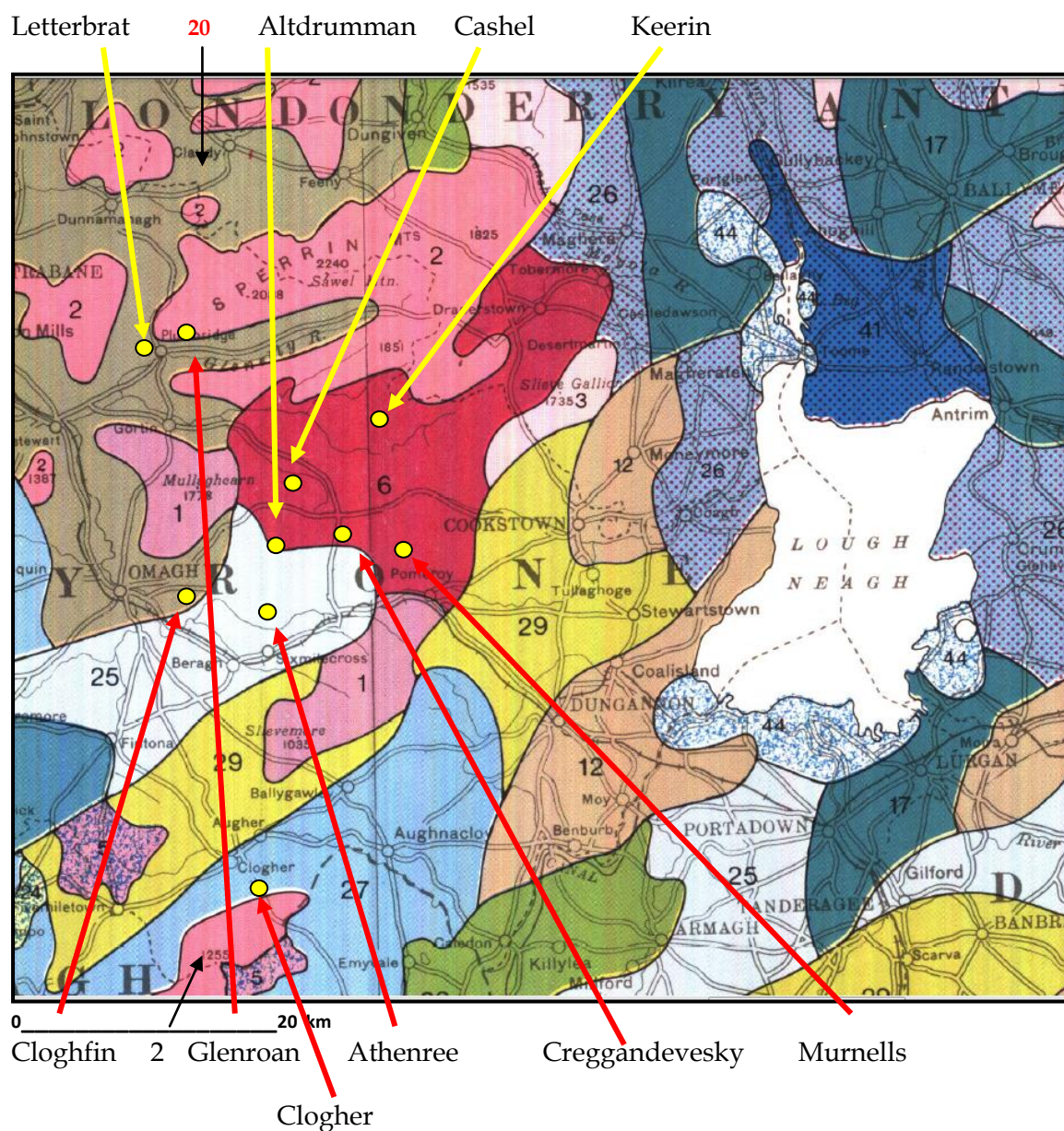
SLIGO.



SOIL TYPE

5 Blanket peat	7 Rendzinas with outcropping rock	15 Brown podzolics
18 Podzols	21 Gleys	23 Lithosols
24 Blanket peat	28 Acid brown earth	44 Basin peat
32 Degraded grey brown podzolics	33 Shallow brown earths and rendzinas	

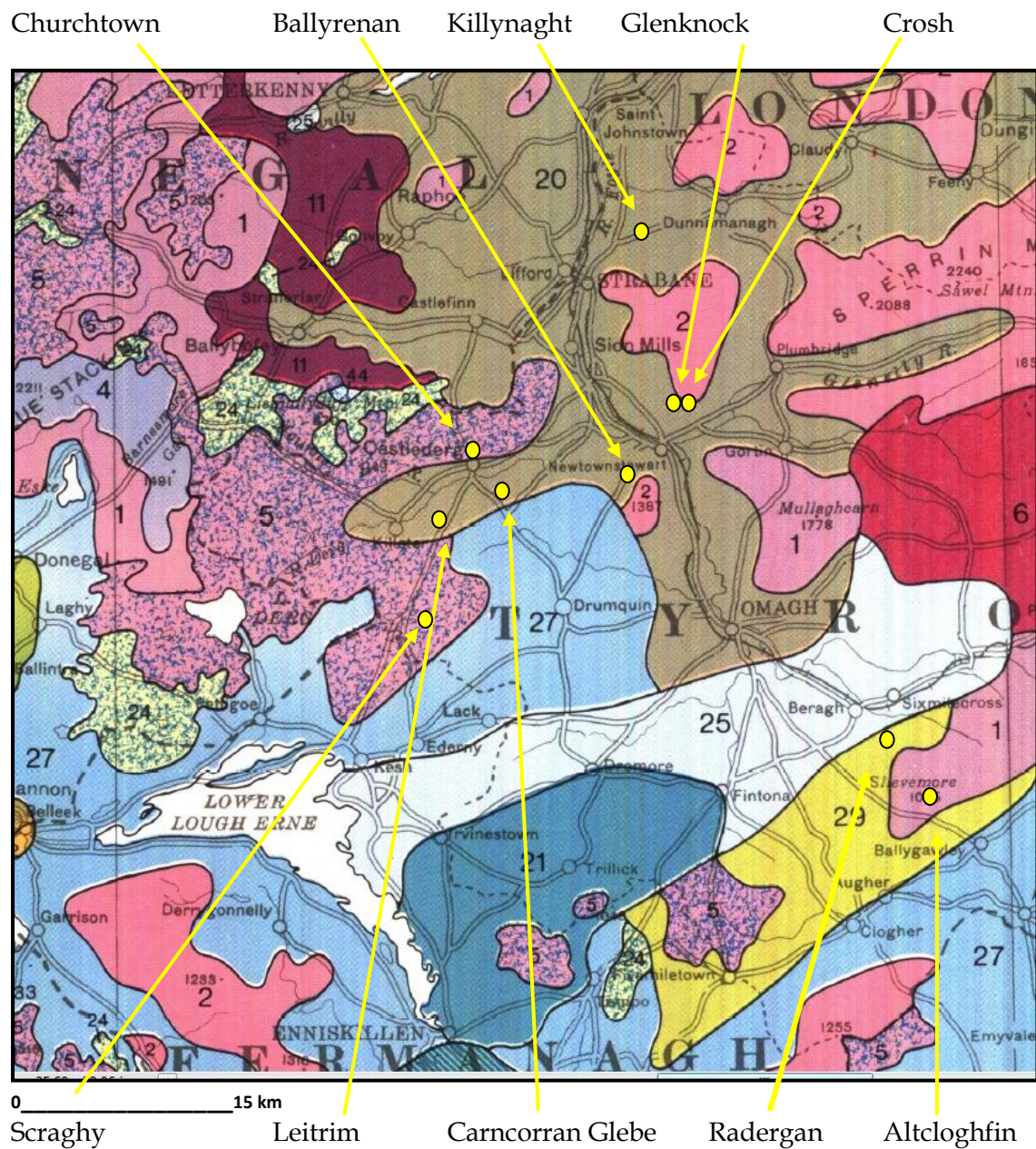
TYRONE EAST.



SOIL TYPE

1	Peaty podzolics
2	Peaty gleys
6	Brown podzolics
20	Brown podzolics
25	Gleys
27	Gleys

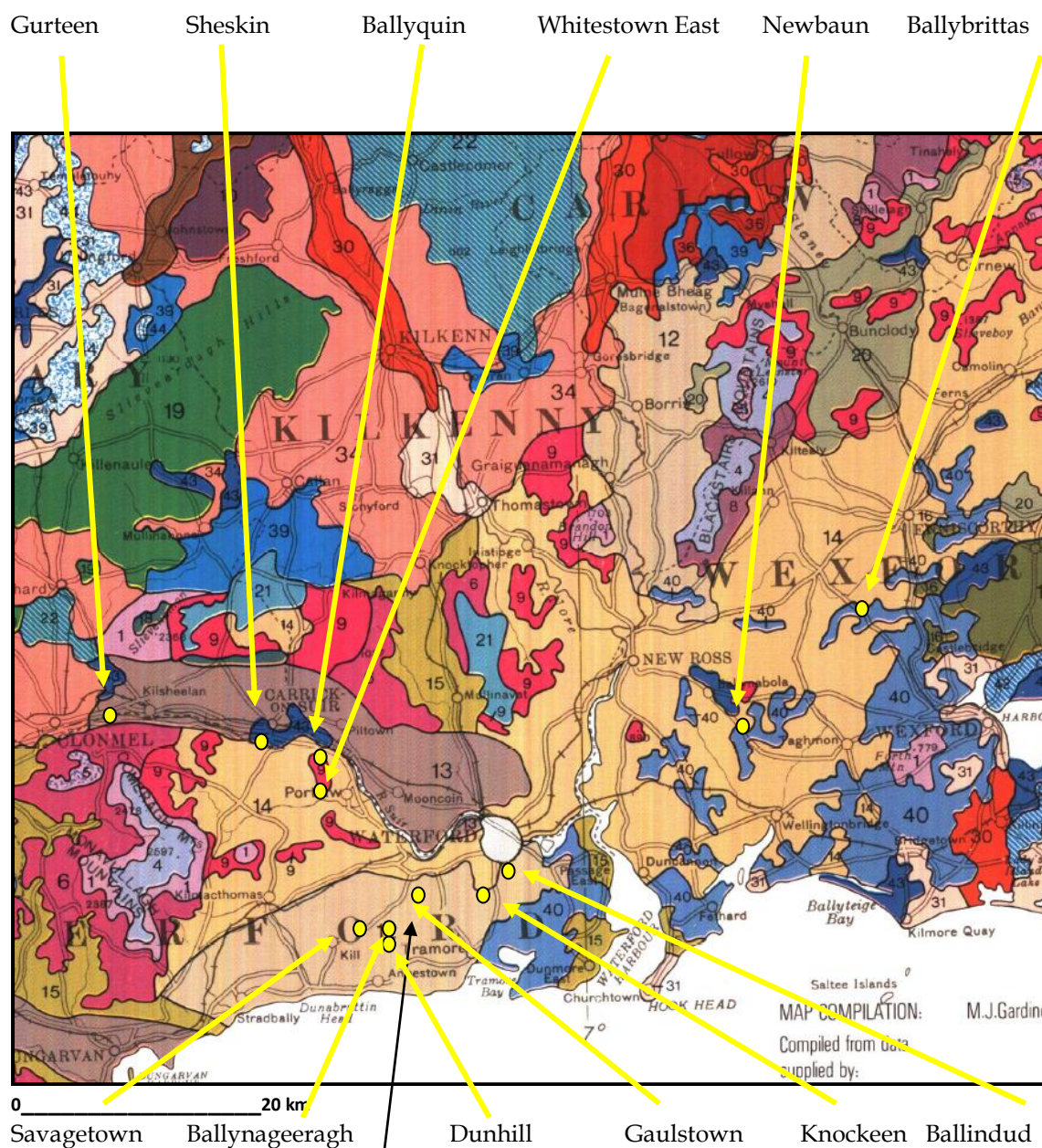
TYRONE WEST.



SOIL TYPE

1	Peaty podzolics	2	Peaty gleys
5	Blanket peat (high level)	20	Brown podzolics
25	Acid brown earths	27	Gleys
29	Acid brown earths.		

WATERFORD, WEXFORD.

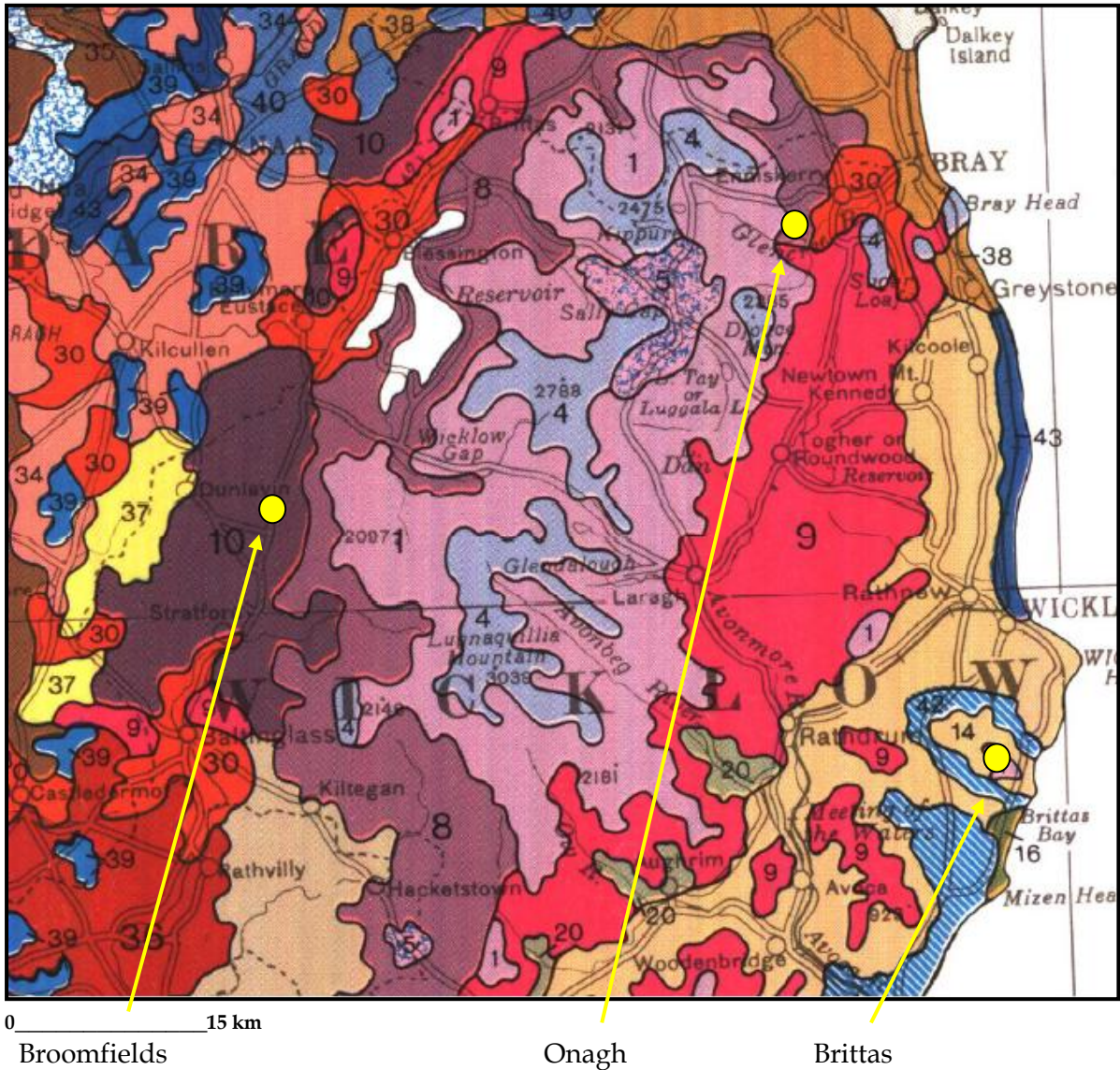


(12)

SOIL TYPE

6	Brown podzolics	9	Brown podzolics
12	Acid brown earths	13	Acid brown earths/gleys
14	Acid brown earths	40	Gleys
43	Gleys, alluvium		

WICKLOW.



SOIL TYPE

1	Peaty podzols	8	Brown podzolic
9	Brown podzolic	10	Grey brown podzolics
14	Acid brown earth	30	Grey brown podzolics
42	Gleys		