

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE

Mullaghmore / Slieveoe / Knockanes

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Glenquin, Coolorta, Creehaun, Gortlecka, Knockans
Lower, Leitra, Aglish, Ballyeighter, Rockforest

NEAREST TOWN

Gort

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

10, 17

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

133000 195750 = R33000 95750

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

52 1/2 inch Sheet No. 14

Outline Site Description

Isolated mountains with a diverse range of subaerial [karren](#) developed on flat and dipping limestone beds.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Terrace and pavement development on flat and inclined bedded Carboniferous limestone, diverse karren features, limestone erratics, shallow marl-floored lake, abandoned cave and a structurally controlled gorge.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The isolated mountains of the Mullaghmore – Slieve Roe – Knockanes site hosts many interesting features including spectacular limestone terraces and pavements, which have developed on the flat and inclined limestone beds. A diverse range of sub-aerial karren features such as rundkarren (rounded solutional grooves), kamenitza (shallow pools in the limestone) and rillenkarren (narrow, sharp-edged solution grooves formed on steep limestone faces) are found at this locality. Densely scattered limestone [erratics](#) are another feature and are particularly abundant in the Rock Forest townland. The erratics here are the best such examples in the Burren region. Other features of note include the ancient, structurally controlled Glenquin gorge, the marl-floored Lough Gealáin and the abandoned [phreatic](#) cave at Gortlecka. Movements deep within the earth's crust were responsible for the formation of the Glenquin Gorge, which appears to be quite a shallow feature to the north but becomes cliff-sided to the south. Lough Gealain, a pseudo-[turlough](#), is a shallow lake with interesting [marl](#) deposits and some wave stones on the northern shore. Large [scallop](#) are preserved in the abandoned cave at Gortnaleck. The Mullaghmore – Slieve Roe – Knockanes site is a very important karst site, but extremely little scientific work has been done here. It has great potential for academic study.

Site Importance

The site is of International importance and is proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 1 Karst theme of the GSI's IGH Programme. It is entirely within SAC 1926 East Burren Complex, and is mostly part of the Burren National Park.

Management/promotion issues

Due to the variety and scattering of features, it is proposed that the boundary to the site is taken by the minor tarred roads that are the circumference to the three mountains, plus an extension to the south-east to include the rest of the limestone erratic field in Creehaun Townland.



Knockanes - Slieve Roe - Gort lowlands (G. LI. Jones).

