

# CAVAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Pollprughlisk</b>
Other names used for site	Pollprughlish, Border Pots, Swanlinbar Pots, Pollprughlisk-Pollnatagha-Polliniska System
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH1 Karst</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Alteen, Greenan</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Swanlinbar</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>616483E 828830N</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>26 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 7</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

This cave is a pothole around 40m deep, which connects underground to two other potholes (Polliniska and Pollnatagha) just across the border in County Fermanagh.

## **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

The cave is formed within Lower Carboniferous limestone of the Dartry Limestone Formation. The facies of the formation vary greatly and in this area there are some 140m of well bedded cherty limestones.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

Pollprughlisk (and Pollnatagha – Polliniska) is part of an integrated system of fracture controlled vertical caves connected by bedding controlled horizontal caves and is one of the best examples of this geomorphological feature in Ireland. The part of the system in Northern Ireland has been evaluated for its scientific interest. A surface river sinks into Polliniska, but a slight dry valley that continues to the Pollprughlisk entrance suggests it originally also flowed to that cave. At the cavers entrance there are water-worn beds of limestone some of which have foundered into small cave sections.

## **Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA**

The Pollprughlisk – Pollnatagha – Polliniska Sytem is an excellent example of a horizontal cave system developed at a level controlled by bedding, with multiple fracture-controlled vertical shafts. It is of national importance and is recommended for geological NHA status.

## **Management/promotion issues**

Pollprughlisk is part of an interconnected system of vertical shafts and horizontal caves of which part is in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland portion has been assessed as part of the Earth Science Conservation Review and designated as an Earth Science Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). Management should be a co-operative matter with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, which currently has responsibility for protected areas.

The forestry surrounding the pothole is mature and has largely been felled, but the storm-fallen trees across the pothole have damaged some of the wire fencing around the shaft.



Pollprughlisk main shaft is to the right of the tree stand, with the cavers entrance in the small trees in the near distance. Slabs of waterworn limestone beds have foundered into small cave passages in the foreground.



Pollprughlisk main shaft.



Polliniska, with surface stream sinking into the system.





