

CAVAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Western Cuilcagh – Pollnaowen		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst		
TOWNLAND(S)	Mullaghboy		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Blacklion		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	4		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	606982E 833200N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	26	GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	7

Outline Site Description

Pollnaowen is a small karstic river sink of the river issuing from Garvagh Lough,

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rock here is part of the Lower Carboniferous Dartry Limestone Formation, but the subterranean drainage has developed only in the period since the last Ice Age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site is a classic karstic feature of a surface river sinking into limestone and becoming underground drainage. The river draining from Garvagh Lough sinks into the bedrock over several tens of metres. It is reputedly the site of the first water tracing experiment in 1872, when chaff from harvesting wheat was put in the water and then seen emerging at Shannon Pot. The drainage connection is only one of many in the west Cuilcagh area that connect to Shannon Pot, traditionally considered to be the source of the River Shannon.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

The site is a good example of a sinkhole in a karstic terrain, and is within a large area of karstic landscape and subterranean drainage in West Cuilcagh.

Management/promotion issues

The site has permissive access from the landowner to view the sinking river, and a short path from the road brings a visitor to a signboard explaining the site. The Marble Arch Caves Geopark has provided the signboard, and presumably will feature the site in future promotional materials.



A Geopark signboard explains the disappearing river at Pollnaowen.



At Pollnaowen the water seeps away in numerous spots ending finally in this pool.



The roadside sign and pull-in space for one car for visitors to Pollnaowen.



