

CAVAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Western Cuilcagh – Shannon Pot
Other names used for site	Source of the River Shannon
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst
TOWNLAND(S)	Derrylahan
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Blacklion
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	4
ITM CO-ORDINATES	605332E 831753N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	26 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 7

Outline Site Description

This is a spring rising, traditionally regarded as the source of the River Shannon.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The water rises through rocks mapped at the surface here as the Meenymore Formation or the Glenade Sandstone Formation, but it passed underground within the Dartry Limestone Formation, which cannot be far below surface. All rocks are of Carboniferous age, from around 330 million years ago. The very extensive network of water inputs from across the Cuilcagh range, indicates that extensive pre-glacial and inter-glacial development of drainage preceded all post-glacial developments.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This spring rising is traditionally regarded as the source of the River Shannon, the longest river in Ireland. It is a large pool, 16 m in diameter, which has been dived to 9 m depth below which it becomes impassable. The water is sourced from very many sinks in the Cuilcagh uplands to the east, some coming from East Cuilcagh, 10 km away at Pigeon Pot in County Fermanagh. Although it largely travels underground in the Dartry Limestone Formation, it is capped by slightly younger sandstones and evaporite (gypsum-bearing) rocks. These have been breached where the rising occurs at Shannon Pot.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

The site is an important component of the Western Cuilcagh site recommended for geological NHA status.

Management/promotion issues

As with many sites in the Geopark, very good infrastructure for visitors, with permissive access from landowners, has been put in place. A well signed public car park with picnic facilities, other walking routes and signboards, allows visitors to make a short walk on a hard surface path to Shannon Pot, where further interpretation signboards are in place.



The signposted access to Shannon Pot.



Signboard at Shannon Pot car park.



Shannon Pot.



Footpath and footbridge to Shannon Pot.



Signboards beside Shannon Pot.

