

DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	The Pullauns
Other names used for site	The Pullans
IGH THEME	IGH1, Karst
TOWNLAND(S)	Brownhall Demesne
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Ballintra
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	104
ITM CO-ORDINATES	593491E, 869963N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER: 11	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NOS. 3, 4
GIS Code DL046	

Outline Site Description

The site consists of a linear river cave in deep ravines enclosed by trees on either side of the road through a private demesne.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock is part of the Lower Carboniferous Ballyshannon Limestone Formation. The karst features developed within it in the last 10,000 years or so, in the period since the last Ice Age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Pullauns is an excellent example of a near-surface river cave with unroofed, partially roofed and fully roofed sections in well bedded limestones. The unroofed sections are the result of continuing karstification of the limestone which has led to collapse of the roof. The main road through the demesne passes over a roofed section of the cave.

Site Importance: County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

This site clearly illustrates the relationship between the various stages of karst development. It is the only one of its kind in Donegal although similar features are known from elsewhere in Ireland, including the White Father's Caves in Co. Cavan.

Management/promotion issues

A sign on the gate pillar states that Brownhall Demesne is not open to the public. It is an extensive, working farm. Moreover, the site itself poses danger to the unwary: the collapse of sections of the cave roof has created deep ravines and there are also sizeable holes in the cave roof, partly obscured by forest undergrowth. Apart from electric fencing to control livestock, there is no protective fencing around the caves. Those wishing to visit should do so only with the prior agreement of and permission from the owner. The site is well known in geological circles and further promotion is not recommended.



Large, unroofed section of cave.



River flowing to left into roofed section of cave.



Collapse of section of roof creating deep ravine in forest.

