

GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Pollbehan
Other names used for site	Pollbeaghy
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst
TOWNLAND(S)	Carrowkilleen
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Gort, Kinvara
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	113
ITM CO-ORDINATES	536141E 708265N (entrance)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET No. 52	GSI BEDROCK 1: 100,000 SHEET NO. 14

Outline Site Description

A major collapse doline within a large area of limestone pavement.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The doline is a collapse into Carboniferous Limestone but is probably a post glacial (Holocene) development.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

A major collapse doline located some 800 m WNW of Pollaloughabo and located on the same major conduit. Cave divers have connected the two sites. The doline is located in an area of otherwise featureless horizontal limestone pavement. The collapse is some 15 m deep with largely vertical sides and a steep underwater slope into the main river passage. Together with Pollnadirk, Moran's Cave, Pollaloughabo and Quinns Cave, it represents a window into the deep karst conduit system of the lowlands. Pollbehan is located to the west of Kinvara and may therefore be on the original route of the main flow route from the river sinks near Gort to the springs at or near Corranroo.

This feature cannot be seen due to heavy vegetation growing within this doline. However, this factor makes the feature recognizable from a distance as it looks like a small forested area amongst the surrounding limestone pavement landscape. The base of this doline is flooded, as a permanent intersection of the water table in the lowlands.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

This is one of numerous sites within the Gort-Kinvara lowlands which make up a complex of international importance. The site is recommended to NPWS for designation as a geological NHA, comprising one of 16 critical sites within the Gort-Kinvara lowland karst, which is one of the best studied lowland karst areas of the World.

Management/promotion issues

The remoteness, difficulty of access, near vertical sides of the doline and general situation in the middle of a featureless area of scrubby limestone pavement, means this is not a suitable site for public promotion.



View of Pollbehan showing the permanent intersection with the water table at the bottom of the collapse feature. Only cave divers can progress from this site, which connects with Pollaloughabo.



View of Pollbehan showing the heavily overgrown and very steep sides of the collapse feature.

