

LEITRIM - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Eagle's Rock
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)	Cloontyprughlish, Crumpaun
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Manorhamilton
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	3
ITM CO-ORDINATES	578150E 847800N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 16	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 7
GIS CODE LM010	

Outline Site Description

Rock structure on cliff that forms part of wall of glacial valley.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous) limestone and shale of the Glencar Limestone and Dartry Limestone Formations (c. 330 Ma).

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Eagle's Rock is a 330m-high, free-standing rock pillar, a prominent, iconic feature in the U-shaped Glenade Valley. The valley was formed during the last ice age as a consequence of glaciation. On either side of Eagle's Rock the valley walls are recessed owing to weathering under glacial conditions. Eagle's Rock formed after the glacier that occupied the valley had retreated. The glacier had provided support for the steep walls of the U-shaped valley but when it melted the lack of support led to localized collapse. Eagle's Rock is thus a former part of the valley wall that has broken away to become a free-standing pillar. Similar collapse features are visible at Peakadaw to the south, also a County Geological Site, and at Swiss Valley in Glencar.

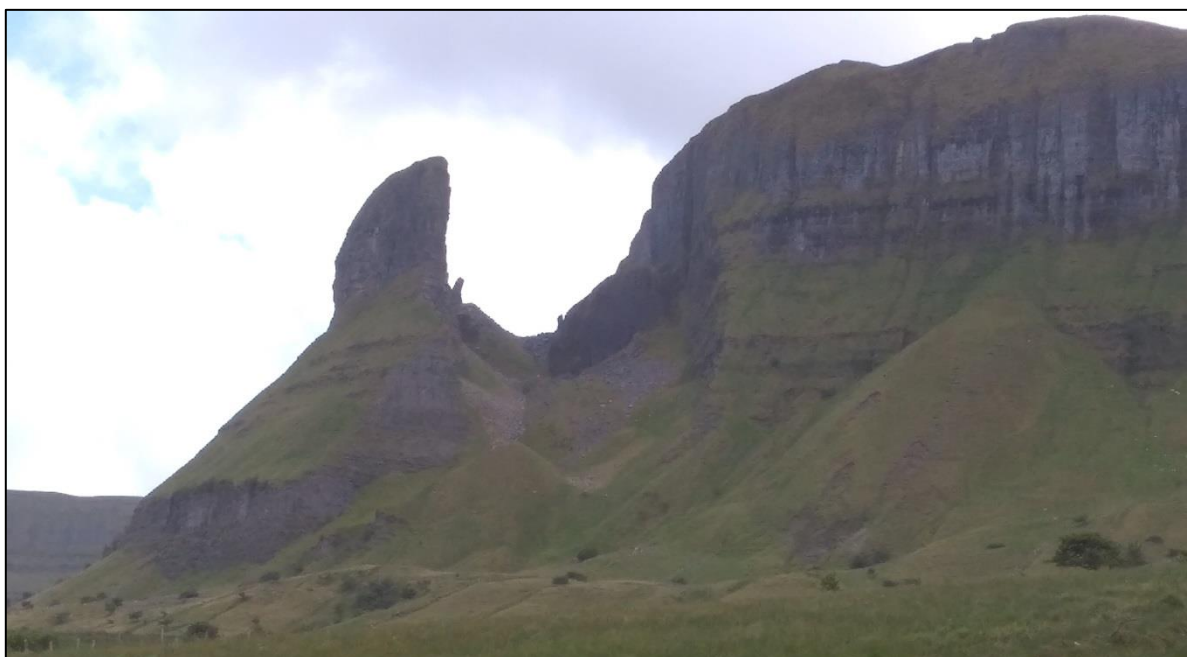
The old six-inch maps show Eagle's Rock as occurring about one km to the northwest but this site as described is the one commonly referred to as Eagle's Rock. The sign board in the adjacent car park refers to the formation of cirques that led in turn to the development of Eagle's Rock pillar but the adjacent cliffs do not comprise cirques and formation of the pillar is more properly ascribed to collapse following glacial retreat.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Eagle's Rock is a spectacular geomorphological feature within a large glacial valley, part of the wider Glenade Valley area defined in this audit.

Management/promotion issues

Eagle's Rock is within the Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC and proposed NHA. It is popular with walkers and climbers and the site is well-served by the council car park near its base. From the car park a gravel road (right-of-way) leads to a walking trail that winds up the cliff face on the northern side of Eagle's Rock, affording view of the rock itself and the surrounding upland and valley. The latter part of the walking trail is on commonage. The site is well sign-posted in the region and no further promotion is necessary.



Close-up of Eagle's Rock, looking south from roadway that leads to summit walking route.



Eagle's Rock (left side of cliffs) viewed from east.



Sign-board at Eagle's Rock car park.



Eagle's Rock with cliffs of adjoining cirque in background, looking south from roadway that leads to summit.

