

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	St. Keeran's Well	
Other names used for site		
IGH THEME:	IGH 1 (Karst)	
TOWNLAND(S)	Castlekeeran	
NEAREST TOWN	Carnaross	
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	16	
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	268760 277070 = N 6876 7707	
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	42	1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description

Natural rock outcrop and springs.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Carboniferous limestone, with surface karst weathering features.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This small collection of outcrops, situated 1.5km south of Carnacross, displays smooth, undulating channels cut into the limestone. These are karst weathering features known as karren, and were produced by solution of the limestone. This is a chemical process by which dilute acid within water (naturally occurring in rainwater) dissolves the calcium carbonate within the limestone, leaving the features we see today. A small natural spring is found within the same limestone outcrop, where groundwater appears at the surface.

Site Importance

There are very few naturally exposed karst features seen within the limestones of Meath and therefore this site is recommended as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

Access to this small site is just off a quiet third class road. This is a public area and a religious site, also commonly used by passers by as a picnic spot. The area is well maintained but its ownership is unknown and it is unclear who manages this site.



Left: Limestone outcrops displaying karst weathering features. A shrine to the Virgin Mary is observed in the background.
Right: Natural spring occurring within the limestone at St. Keeran's Well.

St. Keeran's Well

