MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	**Corraun (North Slopes)**
Other names used for site	Corraun Hill; Carraun
IGH THEME	**IGH7 Quaternary, IGH14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology**
TOWNLAND(S)	**Mweewillin, Srahmore, Belfarsad, Cartron, Bolinglanna**
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	**Achill Sound**
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	**65, 66**
ITM CO-ORDINATES	**498320E 842440N (centre of feature)**
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 30	**GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 6, 10**
GIS Code MO033	

Outline Site Description
The site is situated on the northern side of the >500m high ice-sculpted Corraun mountains. The glaciated valleys comprise heathland, with pockets of peat, loose rock and several small lakes.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
The mountains have been shaped and moulded during the Quaternary (Ice Age) by glacier ice that abraded the mountain summits and flanks. Corraun Hill comprises Dalradian bedrock, whilst the remaining summits to the east are Lower Carboniferous Old Red Sandstone (Maam Formation).

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
The site occupies the northern flanks of the Corraun mountains which rise to an altitude of 524m at Corraun Hill and an altitude of 541m above Lough Cullydoo to the east. The northern sides of the mountains are occupied by several well-developed corries. Some of these corries are occupied by corrie lakes (tarns). In places, scree deposits blanket the steep corrie side. Moraine deposits in the lower valleys are dissected by Holocene (post-glacial) streams (e.g. Fiddaunnatramore). A group of lakes lie just north of the foot of the mountain slopes at ~180m a.s.l. The site is mainly Alpine/Boreal and North Atlantic heathland on the mountain slopes, and blanket bog on the more level lowlands. The blanket peat has formed in the last ~10,000 years since the Ice Age. Peat cutting is evident in places, and high peat hags are present in some localities. Knockacorraun Lough corrie and the nearby corries to the immediate east drain northwestwards, eventually into Achill Sound. The corries occupied by Lough Cullydoo and Lough Cullylea drain northeastwards into the Cartron catchment towards Blacksod Bay. A major structural fault (Corraun Fault) runs through the site, extending over 50km NE from nearby Achillbeg Island.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA
The site comprises impressive corrie features, stream gullies, scree slopes and small lakes. The site is part of the Corraun Plateau SAC (000485). The site is part of a complex of Quaternary geology of national importance. This site is recommended for designation as a geological NHA.

Management/promotion issues
Turf cutting and sheep-grazing represent the main land usage in the locality. Access to the site is via forestry or turf-cutting tracks. The site is not deemed suitable for general promotion, owing to the remoteness of the features. However, this impressive glacially moulded mountain terrain is arguably best observed from a distance (e.g. Achill Sound).

North slope of Corraun hills, viewed from Achill Sound, looking southeast.

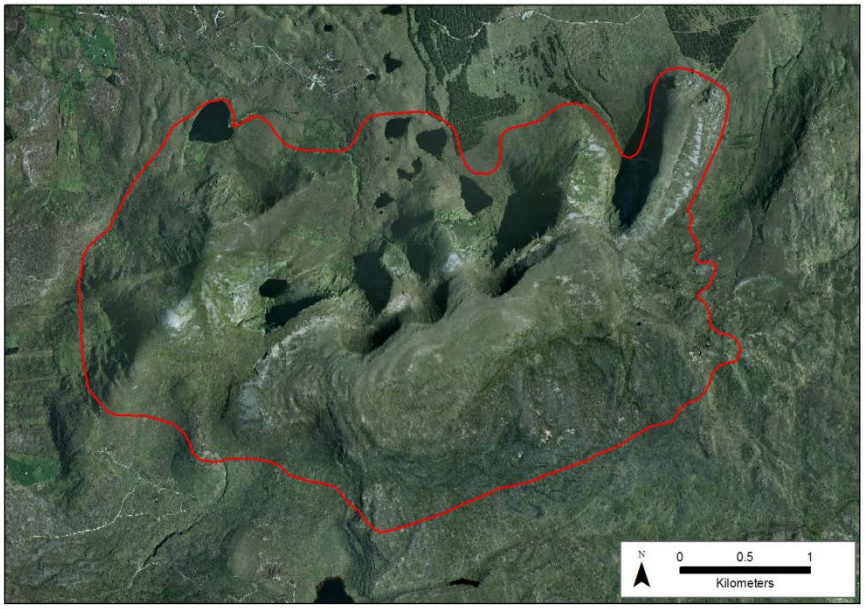
Peat hags at Tawnytruffaun Lough, looking south.

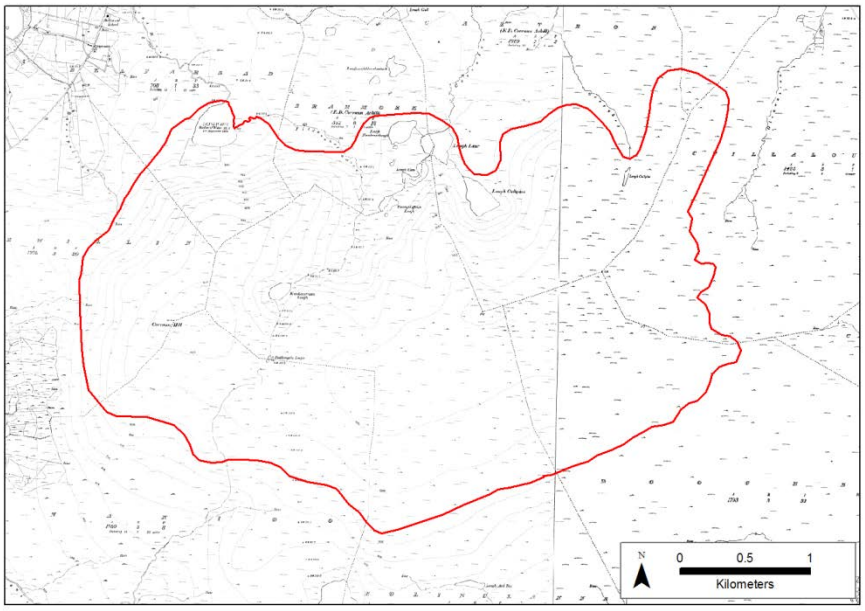
Fiddaunnatramore stream gully cutting through sand and gravel glacial deposits, looking north.

Severe erosion of peat has exposed the underlying loose rock surface - looking east over Lough Cam.

Fiddaunnatramore stream cutting moraine deposits west of Lough Cam, looking SW.

Loose Dalradian quartzite rocks exposed between eroded peat hags.





Hennessy et al. 2014 (revised 2019). Geological Survey Ireland.