MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	**Maumtrasna**
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	**IGH14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology**
TOWNLAND(S)	**Derry, Maumtrasna, Dooletter, Shanafaraghaun, Tawnaleen, Glenacally, Aillebaun, Erriff, Barnahowna, Dirkbeg, Cappanacreha**
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	**Leenane**
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	**107d, 108c, 116**
ITM CO-ORDINATES	**496970E 764520N**
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 38	**GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 11**
GIS Code MO079	

Outline Site Description
A flat-topped mountain massif with numerous ice-sculpted corries, corrie lakes and valleys radiating from the flat-topped massif.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
The bedrock geology of the site is almost entirely Middle-Upper Ordovician Mweelrea Formation (conglomerates, sandstones and ignimbrites). Outcrops of younger Carboniferous Moy Sandstone Formation pebbly conglomerates and sandstones are found along the western part of the flat summit.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
A mountain massif that rises to over 670m. The extensive flat plateau summit of the massif represents the exhumed Early Carboniferous peneplain (level erosion surface) and small outliers of Carboniferous sandstone remain on top (Moy Sandstone Formation). Pre-Carboniferous erosion formed the level surface upon which the Early Carboniferous (Visean) sandstones and conglomerates accumulated. The mountain is fretted by short radial valleys that are fed by large, low altitude cirque basins. The massif covers an area of approximately 50km^2. The Galway-Mayo boundary runs through the southwestern limbs of the massif at Knocklaur, Benwee, and Leynabricka. Numerous rivers, streams, lakes and waterfalls may be observed in the valleys around the rim of the massif, including the Srahnalong and Owenbrin rivers (draining into Lough Mask); the Luggakippan, Glenfree and Glennagleragh (into Glennacally River) rivers; tributaries of the Fooey River, and numerous other tributaries. Several corrie lakes may be observed on the northeast and east facing slopes of the massif, including Lough Glenawough, Dirkbeg Lough, Lough Nadirkmore, and Lough Nambrackkeagh.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA
The mountains are host to some of the best corrie landscape in the west of Ireland. Part of the NE of the site is located in the Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC (001932). The peneplain surface and corrie landscape itself is of national importance. The site should be designated a geological NHA.

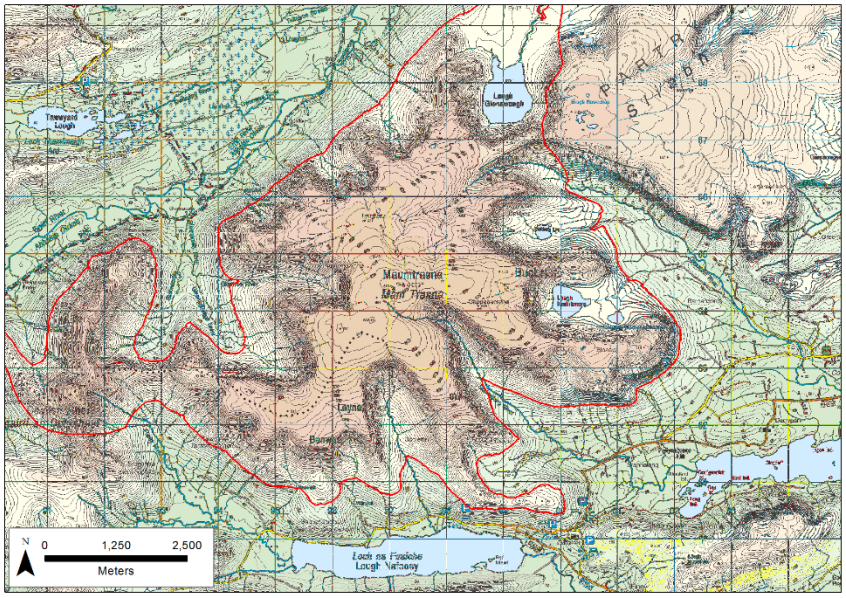
Management/promotion issues
Access to the mountains is mainly restricted to hillwalkers and climbers, as there is no road access to the mountain summits. The mountain topography is very scenic and many of the best features (e.g. corries) can be observed from the surrounding low-lying and mountainous landscape. Owing to the kilometric scale of these macro-scale features, no particular threats are identified. The area indicated on the maps below (redline) encloses much of the features of interest in this site.

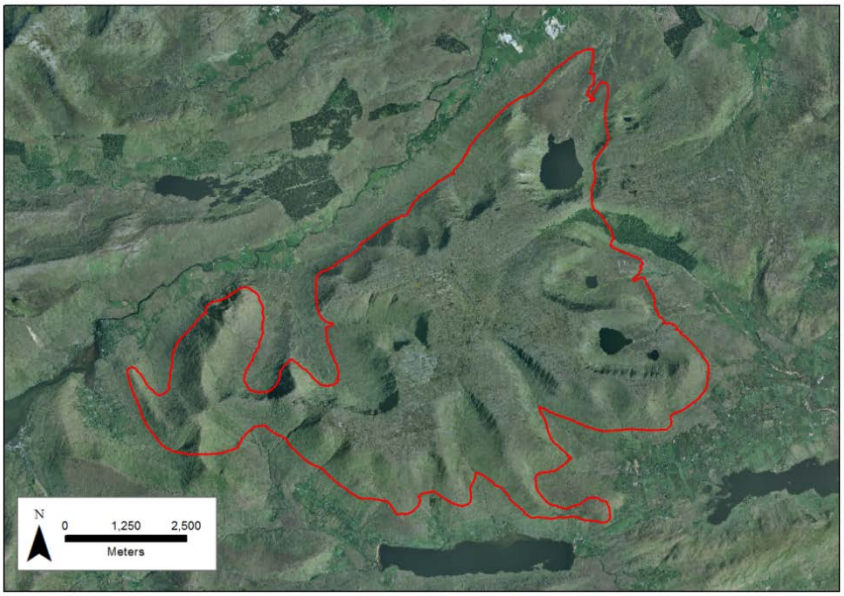
View of the Maumtrasna massif – viewed from Kilbride peninsula looking NW. Lough Nafooey on the left. Srahnalong Valley is on the middle-right.

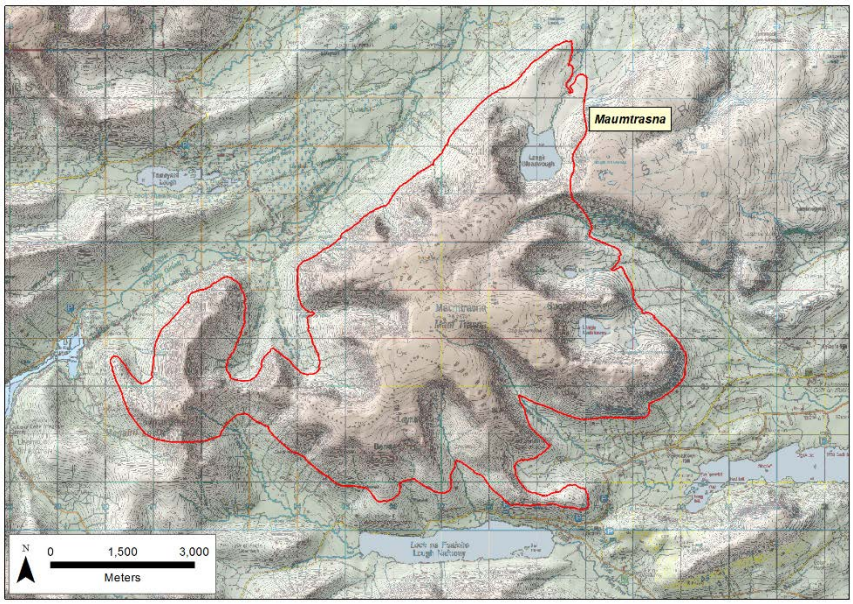
View of the Maumtrasna massif – viewed from Kilbride peninsula looking NW. Srahnalong Valley on left. Owenbrin River valley on right. The level peneplain summit of the massif is evident.

View of Srahnalong Valley on NE side of Mauntrasna massif – viewed from Kilbride peninsula looking NW.

View of Owenbrin River valley on east side of Mauntrasna massif – viewed from Derry Bay looking north. Forestry on the slopes of Barnahown visible in the distance.







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