

## MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Nephin Beg Range</b>
Other names used for site	Nefin Beg, Néifinn Bheag; Nephin Beg Mountains
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH7 Quaternary, IGH14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Numerous townlands</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Newport</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>58, 72, 81</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>497540E 807970N (general midpoint of region)</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NOS. 23, 20, 31</b>	<b>GIS BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NOS.6, 11</b>
<b>GIS Code MO081</b>	

### **Outline Site Description**

The Nephin Beg Range is a mountainous area situated to the north of Clew Bay. It is one of the best examples in Ireland of a glaciated landscape. Summit elevations mostly range from 400m to 600m, with two summits, Corranabinnia and Slieve Carr, reaching over 700m.

### **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

Bedrock in this extensive site comprises resistant Dalradian quartzite and schist (Grampian, Appin, Argyll Groups), Devonian, and Carboniferous age rocks. The landscape itself owes its characteristic ice-sculpted morphology to repeated glaciations during the Quaternary period.

### **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

This extensive mountain terrain includes high summits, sheer corrie walls, corrie lakes, wide and deeply-scoured U-shaped valleys, and glacial moraines. The terrain is one of the finest examples of an areally-scoured landscape in the country. This site exhibits classic examples of glacially sculpted mountain terrain and landscapes, with abundant roches moutonnees, whalebacks, striae, chattermarks and erratics. The higher slopes of the highest peaks are blanketed with scree deposits. Several corries and corrie lakes are situated within the site, including Corryloughaphull Lough (Glennamong), Lough Doo (Bengorm), and Lough Adanacleveen (Slieve Carr). An excellent example of a corrie occupies the east side of Buckoogh mountain. The floor in the cirque is flooded with a tarn (Lough Nambrackkeagh) at an elevation of 370m. Medial moraines (rock material carried by a glacier) occur in the valley between Mount Eagle and Buckoogh.

### **Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA**

This significant County Geological Site exhibits some of the finest glacial landscape geomorphology in the country and is an important site in terms of large-scale Quaternary glacial geomorphology. It is recommended that it be designated a geological NHA. Most of the site is located within the Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC (000534).

### **Management/promotion issues**

A significant part of the western area of the site is located within Ballycroy National Park, including the peaks of Glennamong (628m), Nephin Beg (627m), Slieve Carr (721m), Corslieve (541m), and several excellent examples of corries, tarns and glacially sculpted valleys. The Western Way/Bangor Trail passes through sections of the site. The national park centre is the ideal location for exhibits promoting the geological and ice age heritage of this montane or 'alpine' terrain.



Western section of Nephin Beg Range viewed looking north across Clew Bay from Murrisk.



Eastern section of Nephin Beg Range viewed looking north across Clew Bay from Murrisk. Nephin (806m) peak visible on very right (east).



Claggan Mountain (383m) viewed from the Corraun peninsula, looking east. Greenway Cycle Bridge to the left.



Lough Nambrackkeagh tarn (370m) in the corrie on the east side of Buckoogh mountain. Viewed looking south.

