

ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Mewlaghmore Dolines
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst
TOWNLAND(S)	Southpark Demesne, Lissalway, Mewlaghmore, Rathbarna, Knockalegan West
NEAREST TOWN	Castlerea
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	27
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	173360 279100 (centre of features)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	40 1/2 inch Sheet No. 12

Outline Site Description

The Mewlaghmore Dolines comprise a series of enclosed karstic depressions (or dolines) situated southwest of the R377 road, adjacent to Lissalway Crossroads. They are aligned in a northwest to southeast direction at the base of a shallow valley.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The dolines have been formed by solution of the karstified Lower Carboniferous limestone during the late Quaternary Period.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Mewlaghmore locality contains a large number of karst features (enclosed depressions and swallow holes) oriented along a linear plane. This is an excellent example of a high density of karst features along a dry valley. The field contains different types and forms of dolines, ranging from shallow, gentle-sided depressions to large, deep collapse dolines with vertical sides. The collapses follow a general line running northwest to southeast, which becomes increasingly more 'valley-like' to the west. Some of the features are dry, some hold ponded water and some are actually becoming swallow holes gradually as water is beginning to sink continually into them.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

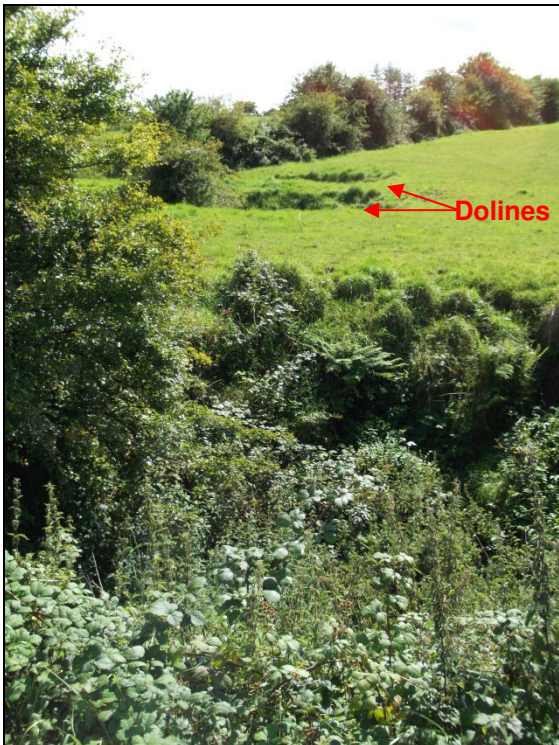
The field of collapse features is perhaps the finest in the country. It is rare to have such a high concentration of dolines, but the wide range of form within the features makes this locality an even more unique one. The site is proposed as a Geological NHA.

Management/promotion issues

This is an excellent site in terms of karst geomorphology. The site should be considered as potentially the best example of a field of collapse features in the country. The landowner should be identified if possible, to raise awareness of the scientific importance of these features. They are very vulnerable to misguided efforts at drainage or 'land improvement' for agricultural reasons.



A view over the doline field, with many unseen shallow dolines present beyond the foreground example, with a small pond in it.



A sinkhole has developed in the foreground doline.



Two dolines: one flooded, one not.

