

# SLIGO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Bricklieves/Keshcorran</b>		
Other names used for site			
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Numerous		
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	Geevagh/Castlebaldwin		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	33, 34, 39 and 40		
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	175000 310000 = G 75 10		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	25, 33	<b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b>	7

## Outline Site Description

Upland limestone karst plateau.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Carboniferous limestones and shales (Bricklieve and Lisgorman Formations respectively).

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Bricklieve Karst is a well-documented and researched karst drainage unit exhibiting many classic karst features. The drainage consists of a widespread diffuse (percolation) input with minor point recharge. The hydrology and karst interest is well described in Thorn *et al.* (1990) and Thorn (1987). The karst unit is an excellent example of upland karst dominated by percolation input to the [aquifer](#) and contains many surface karst features in a good state of preservation, including a number of aillts – dry valleys.

Keshcorran Hill and the surrounding drumlin fields, in conjunction with the remnant [phreatic](#) maze caves at Keshcorran, clearly illustrates the glacial processes and lowering of the topography and karst baselevels in the Keshcorran area. As such, Keshcorran has many features not seen in other isolated hills in Ireland and is the best example of its type.

## Site Importance

The site is of National importance and is proposed for NHA designation under the IGH1 Karst theme of the GSI's IGH Programme, [Site IGH1-10] as of August 2003.

## Management/promotion issues

The site is coincident with a pNHA, already defined for biological reasons.



Limestone scarp on southwestern side of Keshcorran Hill showing series of entrances to glacially truncated remnant phreatic maze cave system. Photo: Donal Daly



Dry valleys or 'Aillts' are a feature of the Bricklieves karst. Photo: Matthew Parkes



## Bricklieves / Keshcorran

