

SLIGO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Geevagh
Other names used for site	Carrowmore Caverns, Seighmairebawn, Pollnagollum, Polliska, Dragonfly Pot
TOWNLAND(S)	Carrownyclovan, Carrowmore, Carrownadargny, Tap, Carrowcashel, Tullynure, Straduff, Ballynashee, Aughnacloy
NEAREST TOWN	Geevagh
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	28 and 35
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	183085 319570 = G 83 20
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	25 1/2 inch Sheet No. 7

Outline Site Description

Upland karst area with many well developed karst features.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Carboniferous limestones, shales and evaporites.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Geevagh Karst is a well documented and researched karst drainage unit exhibiting many classic karst features including swallowholes, vertical caves, natural bridges, [dolines](#), glacially modified/derived dry valleys and springs. The drainage consists of a well-demonstrated vertical shaft [vadose](#) input [zone](#) with a [phreatic](#) mixing [zone](#) with multiple water discharge points (springs). The hydrology and karst interest is well described in Thorn *et al.* (1990) and Thorn (1987). The karst unit is the best example of a vadose cave fed phreatic mixing zone with multiple springs in Ireland and contains many surface karst features in a good state of preservation. The Geevagh site, notably in the Carrowmore Caverns, contains three of the most extensive and deepest vertical cave systems in Ireland (Pollnagollum and Seighmairebawn, Polliska and Dragonfly Pot) and is an excellent example illustrating cave development which has been controlled by both [jointing](#) and [bedding planes](#).

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 IGH1-14] as of August 2003.

Management/promotion issues

Refuse dumping into swallow holes and dolines has taken place in the past and, if continued, would be detrimental to this site.



Looking east across large closed depression and sinkhole at the entrance to Carrowmore Cavern (Seighmairebawn and Pollnagollum entrances). (J. Kelly).



Steep sided dry valley at Geevagh (J. Kelly).

[illegible]