

# SLIGO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>King's Mountain Rift</b>		
Other names used for site			
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Ballynagalliagh, Lislahelly		
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	Drumcliff		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	8, 9		
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	170900 343700 = G 709 437		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	16	<b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b>	7

## Outline Site Description

Long linear rift in the mountainside.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rift is in Carboniferous limestone, but probably formed at the end of the Ice Age c. 10,000 years ago.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This rift is like the Glen on Knocknarea and the Swiss Valley at Glencar in that it results from the same process – removal of ice support from oversteepened hill sides leading to slope failure. Like the Glen, this rift has moved only a few metres before stabilising. Parallel sided walls sometimes only 2-3 metres apart provide a long straight canyon, whose lower end appears in the cliff face as a cave due to some toppling of the higher walls.

## Site Importance

Massive features of mass movement, especially from glacial oversteepening, are not common in Ireland and Sligo has some of the best in this site and the Glen and Swiss Valley. It is certainly a County Geological Site in its own right. This site is expected to be part of a large multi-interest geological NHA comprising Benbulbin and the Truskmore Plateau (including parts in Leitrim) once IGH programme work is completed and final recommendations are made.

## Management/promotion issues

Access may be an issue if the site was promoted at all, but there may be a public right of way to the site, from the path marked on the 1:50,000 OS map.



View of King's Mountain Rift from Glencar road.  
Photo: Matthew Parkes.

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