

# SLIGO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

|                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>NAME OF SITE</b>               | <b>Knocknarea Glen</b>         |
| Other names used for site         | The Glen                       |
| <b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>                | Knocknarea                     |
| <b>NEAREST TOWN</b>               | Strandhill                     |
| <b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>        | 14                             |
| <b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>    | 162700 333355 = G 627 334      |
| <b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b> | 25 <b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b> 7 |

## Outline Site Description

Linear narrow gorge – a limestone rift.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The gorge is within Carboniferous Limestone, but it is uncertain when it was formed. It is most likely to be post glacial. There are also active and relict tufa deposits.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This limestone rift is a very regular parallel sided and very straight gorge. It runs for approximately one kilometre, and is generally about 6m wide but can be up to about 15m wide. It is probably the result of slope failure and mass-movement of the downslope side. Movement has occurred along a fracture like those in the Swiss Valley at Glencar, once the side of the Knocknarea hill lost the support of the ice sheet at the end of the last glaciation (about 10-12,000 years ago). Rather than a spoon shaped slope failure, like at Glencar, it would seem as if the entire block slid out on one particular bedding surface, probably lubricated by groundwater under pressure, and a single fracture line formed the Glen.

There are also active and relict tufa deposits, which indicate lime charged waters seeping on horizons in the limestone.

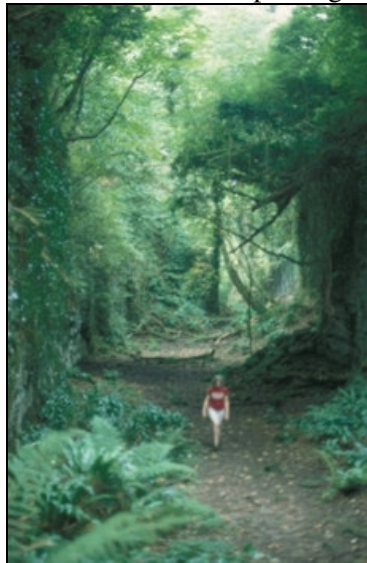
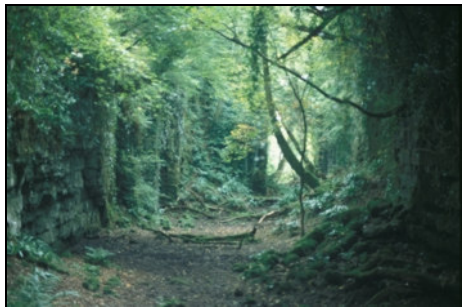
## Site Importance

The site is an interesting and important County Geological Site.

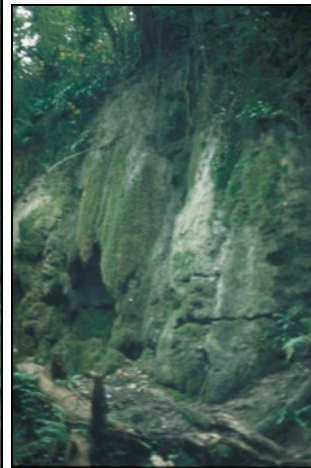
## Management/promotion issues

Although there appears to be easy public access, the site is probably a wildlife refuge, and encouragement of too many visitors would spoil the peace and wildness. It should be protected but not promoted widely in order to maintain the site as it is. There is parking close to entrance.

The Glen  
Photos: Matthew Parkes



Tufa deposits



## Knocknarea Glen

