

SLIGO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Swiss Valley
Other names used for site	Glencar
TOWNLAND(S)	Tormore
NEAREST TOWN	Drumcliff
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	9
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	174000 344000 = G 74 44
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	16 1/2 inch Sheet No. 7

Outline Site Description

Mass movement landscapes.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

10,000-year-old ice-sculpted valley side with landslips.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Swiss Valley is situated at the base of the Dartry limestone cliffs of Glencar. Towards the end of the last glaciation (approximately 10,000 years ago) as the ice grew thinner, ice flow was channelled around higher mountains accentuating glaciated valleys such as that at Glencar. As the ice melted large-scale landslips occurred where unstable, oversteepened valley walls lost the support of the ice and slid downwards in enormous slices on spoon shaped fractures. These landslips now take the form of huge steps ascending the valley walls.

Site Importance

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

New house building could detract from the integrity of these features if permitted. They could be promoted as interesting landscape features if access is not problematic



Two landslipped blocks visible looking west from the plateau edge on the Leitrim side of the border where the Swiss Valley boreen reaches the plateau edge.

Swiss Valley

