

SLIGO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE

Truskmore

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Moodoge

NEAREST TOWN

Cliffony

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

6

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

176000 347400 = G 76 474

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

16

1/2 inch Sheet No.

7

Outline Site Description

Exposures of rock weathering features adjacent to summit of Truskmore.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Remnant **periglacial** features which formed during the later stages of the last glaciation (the Midlandian Glaciation) approximately 10,000 years ago.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

A thin layer of horizontally bedded, lower Carboniferous Glenade Sandstone caps the summit of Truskmore producing a flat plateau area above the less resistant Meenymore **evaporites** and Dartry Limestone. Remnant periglacial features flank the sandstone plateau including sorted nets, stone banked terraces, stone stripes and a bedrock terrace with associated debris fan. Sorted nets displaying a fish-net-tights-pattern are exposed close to the summit of Truskmore. The nets occur as vegetated centres with stone borders and exhibit varying diameter sizes from approximately 1m-5m. They probably formed due to frost sorting and heave. The stone borders, consisting of Glenade sandstone clasts ranging in size from pebble to boulder, are quite angular indicating that they have not travelled far from their source. The northeastern side of the plateau hosts a 120m long bedrock terrace that has been cut into the Glenade sandstone as a result of frost shattering. A large debris fan associated with the terrace covers the slope below. Mass movement of weathered Glenade sandstone has produced stone stripes (up to 4m wide and 100m long) and stone banked terraces on the southeastern side of Truskmore. These features formed as seasonally thawed material moved slowly downslope under the influence of gravity. It is believed that the summit of Truskmore remained ice-free during the last glaciation allowing for the many freeze-thaw cycles required to shatter and move the local bedrock.

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

Any disturbance will damage the scientific value of the patterned ground, including roads or trackways, windfarm development, use of off-road vehicles over these features.



