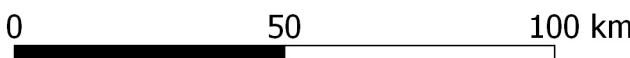


# Quaternary sites of Ireland

A selection of the most significant and unique sites that have been historically and are currently used to understand the Quaternary history of Ireland

Scale: 1:1,400,000



## Quaternary Sites (see other side)

- Archaeological site
- Geomorphological site
- Megafaunal site
- Palaeoenvironmental site
- Stratigraphical site
- World Heritage Site

## Landscape features

- Bedrock streamlined plain
- Bog
- Ice-moulded sediments (drumlins, ribbed moraines, etc)
- Hummocky eskers and moraines
- U-shaped valley
- Urban



# Quaternary Site Descriptions

N°	Site name	Description	Fieldguide & excursion ref
----	-----------	-------------	----------------------------

## Archaeological sites

1	Alice & Gwendoline cave	Site of find of bear bone with cut-marks dated to 12500 BP (earliest dated human interaction)	
2	Carrowmore complex	Neolithic megalithic complex	
3	Ceide fields	Neolithic field system and court tomb	IQUA 14 & 31; Pst-Arch1
4	Clonmacnoise	Early Christian site at the crossing of the River Shannon by the Eiscir Riada (see site 30)	IQUA 21
5	Corlea trackway	Archaeological site of timber trackway across the bog dating back to the Iron Age	IQUA 21; M:HI-3
6	Dún Aonghasa fort	Large Bronze Age stone promontory fort over sheer cliffs	IQUA 27
7	Ferriter’s Cove	Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic archaeological site	IQUA 9
8	Glendalough	Early Christian archaeological complex with 12 <sup>th</sup> C round tower in glacial valley	M:Arch-3
9	Greyabbey	Early Christian monastery with medieval tidal fish-traps	IQUA E; Pst:QHL-3
10	Hill of Tara	Multiphase archaeological site with mythological and historical significance	M:Arch-2
11	Loughcrew megalithic complex	Neolithic passage tomb complex	IQUA 29; M:Arch-4
12	Mell	Palaeolithic flint flake find out of context	
13	Mount Sandel	Earliest Mesolithic settlement in Ireland	
14	Navan fort	Multiphase archaeological site with mythological and historical significance	IQUA B
15	Old Croghan man	Iron Age Bog body find	IQUA 35
16	Poul nabrone	Neolithic portal tomb	IQUA 15, 18 & 33
17	Rathcroghan complex	Multiphase archaeological site with mythological and historical significance	IQUA 30; M:Arch-5
18	Rock of Cashel	A collection of Medieval ecclesiastical buildings set on a limestone outcrop	
19	Ross Island	Early Bronze Age copper mining archaeological site	IQUA 20
20	Woodstown	Viking settlement site	IQUA G

## Geomorphological sites

21	Armoy	Late glacial moraine	IQUA 23 & E
22	Ballyhaunis-Dunmore Esker	Tunnel-deposited esker complex	
23	Bertraghboy Bay	Pre-glacial planation landscape	IQUA D; Pre-GL2
24	Burren and Cliffs of Moher	UNESCO Global Geopark of glacially denuded limestone hills with a unique biodiversity	IQUA 15, 18 & 33; Pst:HL-1
25	Camaross	Pingo field	IQUA G
26	Clare Island	Site of the Royal Irish Academy full island naturalist survey of 1909-11, repeated from 1992 to 2009	IQUA 5 &17; Pst:GL-1
27	Clew Bay	Drumlin field and ribbed moraine that are half-submerged creating a multitude of drumlin islands	IQUA D; Pre-GL2
28	Coumshingaun	One of the best examples of a corrie lake in the Comeragh mountains	IQUA G
29	Donegal Bay	Terminal and recessional moraines on the coastal shelf revealed by the latest seabed surveys	IQUA 31
30	Eiscir Riada	The Royal Esker; Large esker complex including the Clara Esker historically used to cross the island	IQUA 10, 21 & 35; M:GL-5
31	Eriff Valley	Multiple moraine ridges and dissected delta in a wide valley	IQUA D; Pre-GL2
32	Galtrim moraine	Recessional moraine that was formerly (before quarrying) crossed by an esker	
33	Hollywood Glen	Subglacial meltwater channel created by the emptying waters of the glacial lake Blessington	IQUA F; M:GL-3 & 6
34	Kerry mountains	Multiple corries and glacial valleys around the highest peaks of Ireland	IQUA 6 & 20
35	Lough Nahanagan	Corrie and moraine complex among the earliest to be recognised in Ireland by Agassiz	IQUA F; M:GL-2 & 6
36	Marble Arch Cave	UNESCO Global Geopark over a large karst complex	IQUA 16; Pst:QHL-3
37	Screen Hills	Large sandy deposits from the Irish Sea Ice-Stream with numerous kettle-holes	IQUA 4, A & G; Pre-GL1
38	West Connacht	Multiple corries, glacial valleys and Ireland’s only Fjord in Connemara, Joyce Country and South Mayo	IQUA 11 & D; Pre-GL2
39	Western lakes	Large lake system created by glacial erosion with an ancient karst complex	IQUA D; Pre-GL2

## Megafaunal sites

40	Aghnadarragh	Site for woolly mammoth and only Irish musk ox site (oldest megafauna site)	
41	Ballybetagh bog	Major <i>Megaloceros</i> find site	
42	Ballynamintra cave	Megafaunal find site with ongoing excavation	IQUA G
43	Belturbet	Megafaunal find site (woolly mammoth teeth)	
44	Castlepook cave	Major megafaunal find site (only Irish site for spotted hyena ( <i>Crocota crocuta</i> ))	
45	Poll na mBéar	Brown bear hibernation cave site with numerous bones (5,000 to 3,000 BP)	
46	Shandon cave	Major megafaunal find site	

## Palaeoenvironmental sites

47	Ben Bulbin	Potential Alpine flower refuge during the last glacial period discovered from recent DNA studies	
48	Burren townland	Interglacial (Gortian) site	IQUA 14
49	Fenit	Coastal section with Kilfenora interglacial deposits	IQUA 9 & 20
50	Gortian Type-site	Original type-site for the Gortian interglacial	IQUA 33
51	Knocknacran	Organic deposits from last interglacial in Dolines of open-cast Gypsum mine	
52	Lough Gur	Key limnological as well as multiphase archaeological site	IQUA 32; Pst:HL-1
53	Lough Neagh	Site of palaeolimnological study of Lough Neagh using chironomidae and diatomite	IQUA 23 & E
54	Pollnahallia	Pre-Quaternary palaeosurface and deposits in karst system	IQUA 22& D; Pre-GL2

## Stratigraphical sites

55	Connemara Fan	Plio-Pleistocene glacial deposit fan in the lee of an offshore moraine complex	
56	Enniscrone	Glaciotectonics cliff section in the limestone beds	IQUA 31
57	Howe strand	Type-site section of the Courmacsherry raised beach	IQUA A & G
58	Kilkeel Steps	Coastal section with incised channels into glaciomarine mud deposits to below modern sea level	IQUA 1 & E; M:GL-4
59	Killard point	Coastal section indicative of relative sea-level rise from a late ice sheet readvance	IQUA E; M:GL-4

## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

60	Brú na Bóinne	Neolithic complex on the bend of the river Boyne incl. the passage tomb of Newgrange	IQUA 29; M:Arch-2
61	Giant’s causeway	Columnar Palaeogene basalt	IQUA E; M:Geo-2
62	Sceilig Mhichíl	Skellig Michael; early medieval monastery	IQUA 6