

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Gibstown Castle		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME:	IGH 1 (Karst)		
TOWNLAND(S)	Milestown, Gibstown		
NEAREST TOWN	Navan		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	17, 18		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	283100 273100 = N 831 731		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	42	1/2 inch Sheet No.	13

Outline Site Description

Natural rock outcrop and spring.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Courceyan) limestone of the Ballysteen Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Situated 5km north of Navan, south of Gibstown Castle are exposed outcrops of limestone, which display solution features associated with karst weathering. This area was once used as part of a garden walk for the inhabitants of the castle. A number of tunnels have been carved out of the stone as well as a narrow passage winding through the limestone. Within this area is a natural spring, which may be feature associated with the karstification of the surrounding limestone.

Site Importance

There are very few naturally exposed karst features seen within the limestone of Meath and therefore this site is recommended as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

This site can only be accessed by crossing agricultural land, mainly used for cattle grazing. This site itself appears to be used by cattle, possibly using the spring as a drinking source. Public access is therefore not suitable and the site is not recommended for public promotion.



Left: Manmade tunnel cut into the limestone at Gibstown Castle.

Right: Exposed limestone just outside of the main wooded area that makes up most of this site.

Gibstown Castle

