



## Karst caves in Ireland

Karst caves are created when the rainwater passes through the cracks in the limestone. Over time the cracks unite to create small streams that excavate large conduits. The ones accessible to humans are the caves. Karst caves are landforms of the karst systems in Ireland.

The location of these landforms can be useful to analyse the compositional differences in the groundwater, thermal anomalies, etc...

See also

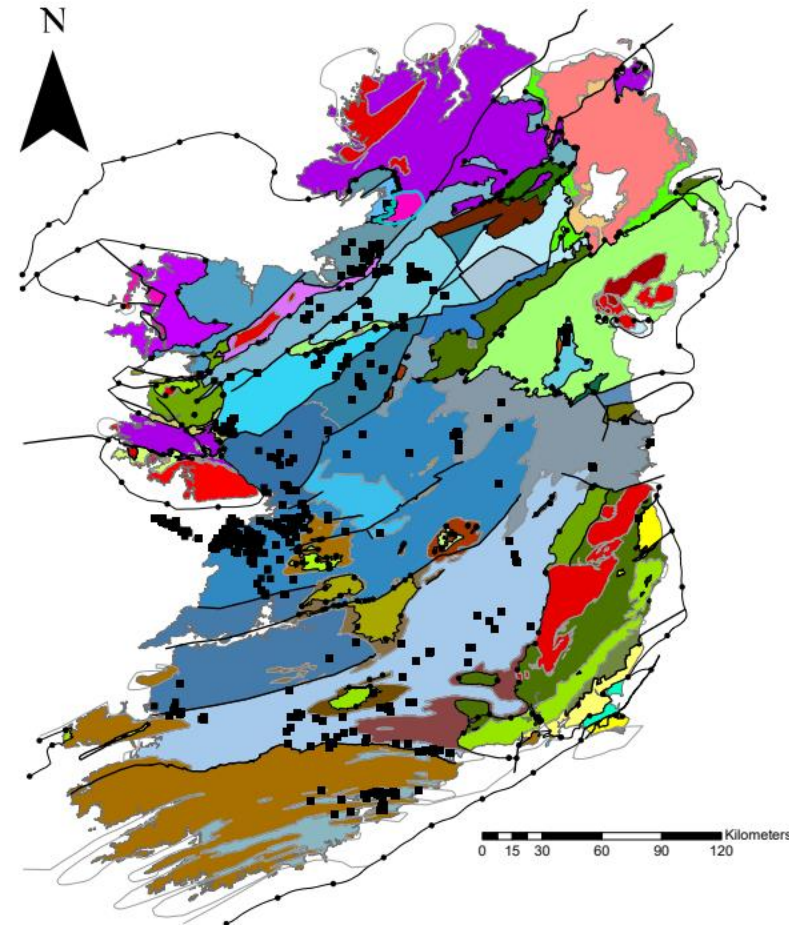
[Karst influent](#), [Karst springs](#), [Warm springs](#).

### Generalities

There are many karst caves in Ireland. They have been historically recorded into the karst landform database. Approximately 40% of the island of Ireland is underlain by limestone and all limestone of some purity has been karstified to some degree. Karst in Ireland is an important source of water, therefore its protection against pollution is a must.

### Anomalies

The spatial distribution of the karst caves in Ireland is associated with the presence of carbonate rocks but they do not seem to follow any fault. There is a higher number towards the West of Ireland. As Karstification is highly influenced by the nature of the limestone and the geological structure, the higher presence of karst caves could indicate pure bedded limestones and presence of bedding, folding and fracturing that produce more openings for the water to penetrate.



1. Figure displaying the distribution of the Karst caves on the structural framework.



## References

<https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-irish-karst/karst-in-ireland/Pages/default.aspx>

[https://www.gsi.ie/documents/The\\_Karst\\_of\\_Ireland\\_compressed\\_version.pdf](https://www.gsi.ie/documents/The_Karst_of_Ireland_compressed_version.pdf)

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