



Karst influent in Ireland

An influent karst landform is one that directs water into the aquifer. It includes swallow holes and enclosed depressions. Karst influents 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

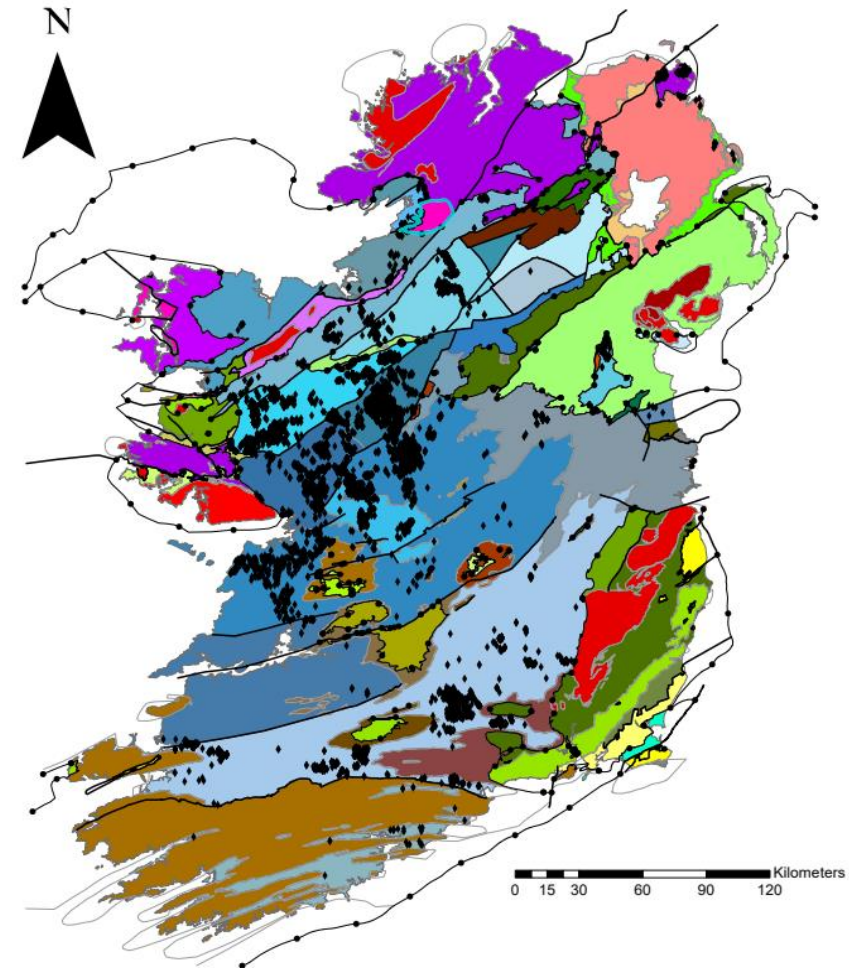
[Karst caves](#), [Karst springs](#), [Warm springs](#).

Generalities

There are many karst influents 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 influent karst landforms 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 influent landforms 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 influent 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

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