



Karst springs in Ireland

Karst springs represent the natural exit for the groundwater to the surface through hydrologically active fissures in a karst system. They tend to appear in the contact between carbonate rocks and impermeable layers. Karst springs are landforms of the karst systems in Ireland.

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

See also

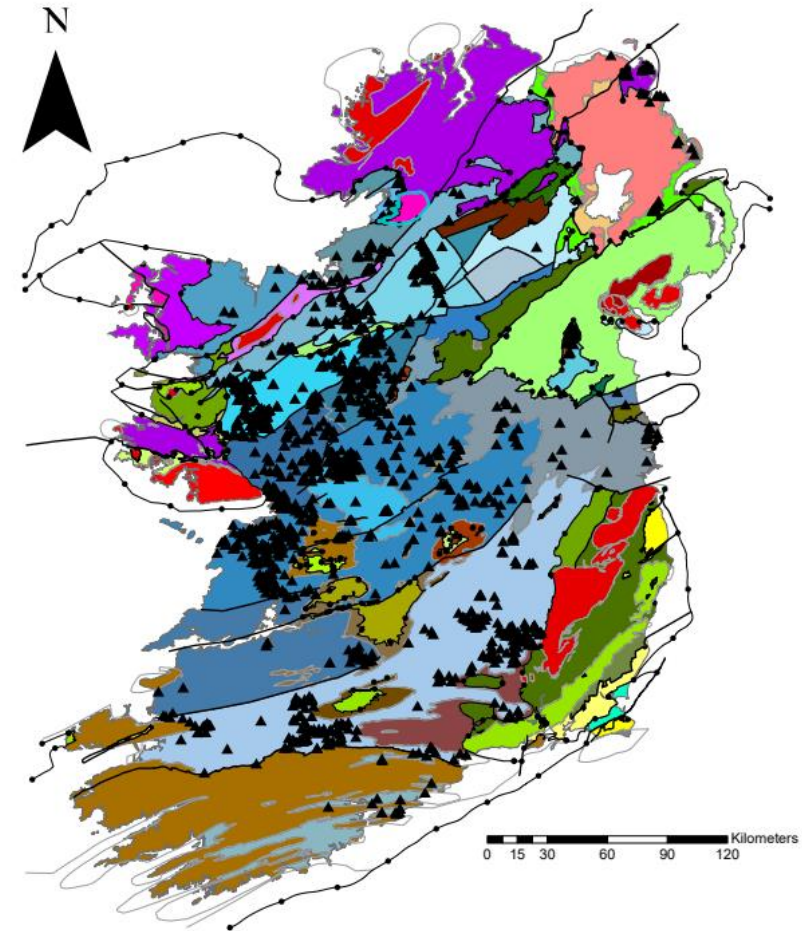
[Karst caves](#), [Karst influent](#), [Warm springs](#).

Generalities

There are many karst springs in Ireland. They have been historically recorded in 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 springs 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 karst springs 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 springs 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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