

Geolaíocht Chorca Dhuibhne cois bóthair

The Roadside Geology of West Kerry



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

An tOighearaois ar Leithinis Chorca Dhuibhne The Ice Age on the Dingle Peninsula



Radharc ó thuaidh ón gcarclós ag Barr Conrach. Chnuasaigh sneachta agus oighear ar thaobh na gcnoc agus a dhein logáin éagsúla ar a tugtar coirí ina bhfuil lochanna beaga domhain i gcuid mhaith acu inniu. Astu seo d'imigh oighearsruthanna ó chlé agus ó dheis le fána agus a dhein oighearsruth gleanna amháin a chuaigh ó thuaidh isteach i mBá Thrá Lí.

View northwards from the car park at the summit of the Connor Pass. Snow and ice collected on mountainsides and formed significant depressions called corries, many of which now contain small deep lakes. From these glaciers flowed downslope from left and right and formed one valley glacier that moved northwards into Tralee Bay.

Tuairim is 2 milliún bliain ó shin thosnaigh aeráid an Domhain ag fuarú agus d'fhás oighearchaidheanna ag na poil. Ghluaisigh oighearchlúdaíthe tiubh ó dheas a chlúdaigh mórchuid na hEorpa. Tugtar an Pléisticeineach ar an dtréimhse seo nuair a bhí seacht dtréimhse malartacha de theas is fuacht. In Éirinn aithnítear dhá oighearthréimhse: an tOighriú Muimhneach (200,000 go 132,000 bliain ó shin) agus níos déanaí Oighriú Lár na Tíre (120,000 go 10,000 bliain ó shin). Sa chéad thréimhse bhí Ciarraí clúdaithe le hoighearchaidheanna agus oighearsruthanna gleanna, nuair do chas oighear áitiúil le hoighearchlúdaíthe tiubh ag bogadh aduaidh; sa dara thréimhse ní raibh Leithinis Chorca Dhuibhne clúdaithe le hoighearchlúdaíthe ach cuireadh oighear ó choirí le hoighearsruthanna áitiúla. Feictear inniu fianaise na n-oighearaoiseanna i ngleannta domhain U-chruthacha, coirí ar chnoic, stríochtaí ar dhromchla charraigeacha agus i dtill oighreach a bhí sil-leagtha nuair do leáigh an t-oighear ar deireadh.

Approximately 2 million years ago Earth's climate began to cool and ice caps formed at the poles. Thick ice sheets advanced southwards and covered northern Europe. This period is known as the Pleistocene when there were seven alternating periods of warm and cold. In Ireland two glacial periods can be recognised: the Munsterian (200,000 to 132,000 years ago) and the later Midlandian (120,000 to 10,000 years ago). In the former ice caps and valley glaciers covered Kerry, where local ice met thick ice sheets moving from the north, while in the latter period the Dingle Peninsula was not covered by ice sheets but small local glaciers were fed with ice from corries. Today the evidence of these ice ages can be seen in deepened U-shaped valleys, corries on mountains, striations on rock surfaces and in glacial till which was deposited when the ice finally melted.



Sraith a léiríonn forbairt gleannta U-chruthacha oighrithe.

1. Gleann V-chruthach gearrtha ag abhainn agus srutháin chliathánacha.
2. Gleann inlóntha le hoighearsruth.
3. Gleann U-chruthach tar éis don oighear a leá.



Sequence showing the development of U-shaped glaciated valleys.

1. V-shaped valley cut by river and lateral streams.
2. Valley filled with a glacier.
3. U-shaped valley left after ice has melted.



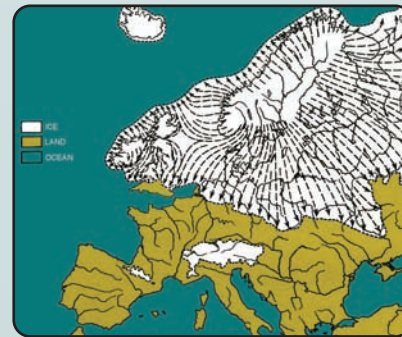
Sraith choirí agus lochanna ar thaobh thoir-thuaidh Chnoc Bhréanainn. Tugtar 'lochanna paternoster' ar na lochanna slabhracha. Chuir oighear ós na coirí leis an oighearsruth thíos a ghluais aneas ó thuaidh.

Series of corries and lakes on the north-east side of Mount Brandon. The string of lakes are known as 'paternoster lakes'. Ice from the corries fed the valley glacier below that flowed from south to north.



Is gaineamhchlocha garbhghráinneacha corcra iad na carraigeacha ag an gConair a sil-leagadh ann 390 milliún bliain ó shin le linn Thréimhse an Deavónaigh.

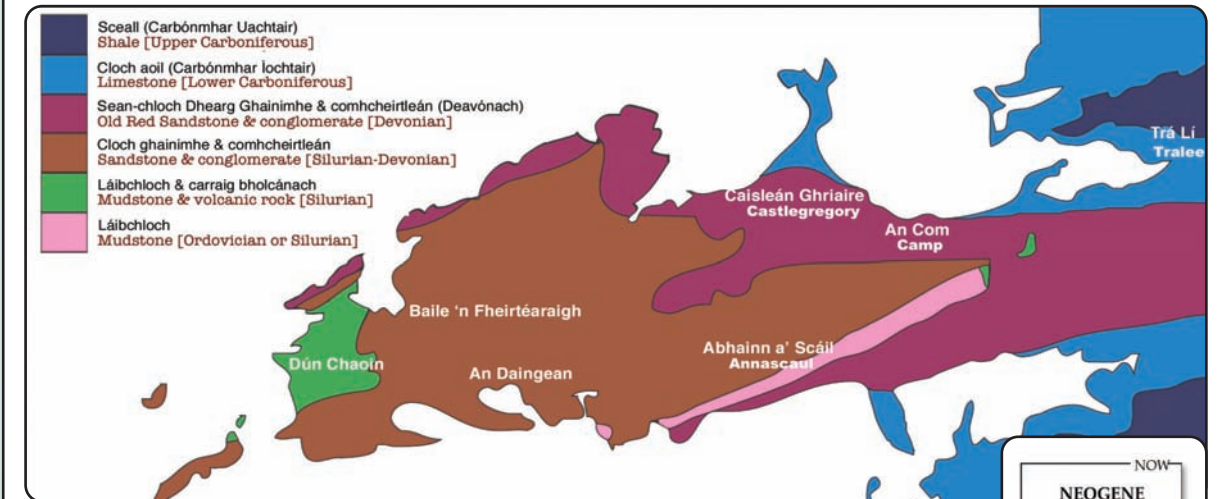
The rocks at the Connor Pass are purple-coloured coarse grained sandstones deposited 390 million years ago during the Devonian Period.



Uas-síntheacht dáilleacháin oighearchaidhe thar an Eoraip le linn na hOighearaoise dheireanaigh. Bhí oighearchaidheanna áitiúla ar na hAlpanna agus na Piréiní.

Maximum extent of the ice cap distribution over northern Europe during the last Ice Age. Localised ice caps were situated on the Alps and Pyrenees.

Stair na Geolaíochta i gCorca Dhuibhne Geological History of West Kerry



Le linn thréimhse an Ordaivísigh agus tréimhse an tSiolúraigh, is laistea de mheánchiorcal an domhain a bhí Éire, faoin bhfarraige idir dhá mhór-roinn. Bhí pluda agus gaineamh á leagadh síos ann, gur deineadh díobh na carraigeacha atá le feiscint anois gairid d'Abhainn an Scáil. Le linn an tSiolúraigh, bhí bolcáin ag pléascadh leis an laibhe agus leis an luaitheach atá le fáil inniu ag Ceann Sratha. Théadh ainmhithe i ngreim i ndríodar láibe agus tá siad le feiscint inniu ann mar iontaisithe nó fosailí gairid do Dhún Chaoin agus ar Chnoc Chathair Chonraoi. Dríodar gainimhe a leagadh síos ina dhiaidh sin a chruthaigh na clocha gainimhe i n-aice leis an nDaingean agus ag Ceann Sléibhe.

Faoi thréimhse an Deavónaigh, bhí an fharraige dúnta ar fad, rud a chruthaigh mór-roinn mhór talún le fásaigh ann. Deineadh Sean-chloch Dhearg Ghainimhe den ngaineamh, mar atá i ndrom Shliabh Mis, agus den ndríodar garbh, deineadh na carraigeacha ar a dtugtar comhcheirtleán, atá le feiscint inniu ag Loch Slat agus ag Inche.

Ag tús an tréimhse Carbónmhar, bhí an talamh faoi bhun farraige tanaí trópaiceach agus bhí an coiréal agus an t-iasc sliogánach ag maireachtaint go ráthmhar ann. Tá a rian súd caomhnaithe sna clocha aoil sna Machairí.

Le dhá mhilliún bliain anuas go dtí deich míle bliain ó shin, bhíodh comanna á gcruthú ar thaobh na gcnoc ag an oighear; is minic a bhíonn locha iontu inniu. Ritheadh sruth an oighir le fánaidh trí na gleannta, agus de réir mar a leá sé, leagadh síos cré na mbollán le mórán saghsanna cloch tríd.

During the Ordovician and Silurian Ireland was south of the equator and under an ocean between two continents. Mud and sand deposited into it eventually became the rocks seen near Annascaul. In the Silurian, volcanic islands erupted lavas and ash now found at Clogher Head. Muddy sediments trapped animals today preserved as fossils near Dún Chaoin and on Caherconree Mountain. Younger, sandy sediments produced the sandstones near An Daingean and Sleah Head.

By the Devonian, the ocean had disappeared, forming a large continent with deserts. The sand formed Old Red Sandstone, the backbone of the Slieve Mish Mountains, while coarser sediments produced rocks called conglomerates, seen now at Lough Slat and at Inch.

At the beginning of the Carboniferous period the land was flooded by shallow tropical seas where shellfish and corals thrived. These are preserved in the limestones on the Magharees.

During the last 2 million years to 10,000 years ago, ice on mountainsides formed depressions called corries, many of which now contain lakes. Glaciers moved downslope along river valleys, and when they melted boulder clay containing many different rock types was deposited.



Radharc ar oighearsruth ag gluaiseacht síos gleanna. Tá an t-ábhar cloiche scríobtha as taobhanna agus bun an ghleanna agus feictear cuid de seo i lár an oighearsrutha.

View of a glacier flowing down a valley. The rock material is scraped from the sides and base of the valley and some of this may be seen in the centre of the ice flow.

