



**Marble Arch Caves European Geopark** – flood surge where the resistant dolerite of the Cuilcagh Dyke forms a raised sill on the bed of a stream running over limestone at Gortmaconnell.

The Marble Arch Caves European Geopark continued to follow its successful development strategy in 2007. Our biggest achievement was undoubtedly the acceptance of our application to both UNESCO and the European geoparks Network to expand the geopark through the scenic uplands of county Fermanagh in conjunction with the Forest Service and the Environment & Heritage service. This massive extension increased the size of the geopark from 2,000 hectares to 18,000 in one stroke bringing in a wealth of new landscapes, geosites, natural habitats and archaeological sites.

*Other highlights of the year included:*

- Work continued with other European Geopark partners within the €4 million INTERREG IIIB North West Europe geoparks project to further develop the sustainable infrastructure of the geopark and to share information, ideas and examples of best practice with colleagues in Germany and the Republic of Ireland.
- European Geoparks Week: Various events were organised during European Geoparks Week to raise awareness of our geological heritage and to promote the UNESCO geopark concept. including guided geological walks, fossil fun days, temporary exhibits and guest lectures.
- Plans for the further expansion of the geopark into the neighbouring county of Cavan in the Republic of Ireland were greatly strengthened by a programme of scientific research, development works and geopark events designed to integrate the Cavan area into the existing geopark on a de facto basis prior to submitting a formal application to expand the geopark into Cavan in 2008.
- A new Marble Arch Caves European Geopark educational DVD was distributed to schools across Northern Ireland and in selected areas of the Republic of Ireland. A new professional photographic library of the geopark was compiled for marketing and publicity purposes and a new range of professionally designed illustrations was commissioned showing the geology and natural history of the geopark for educational purposes.

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