

## SPRINGS IN THE LIMESTONES

Springs occur throughout the Burren wherever underground streams encounter a layer of rock that is impermeable. Examples of such layers include the thin bands of mudstones that lie in between the limestone beds, or layers of chert (Fig. 1). A minor or “perched” water table will exist above the impermeable layer (Fig. 2). The Carran ‘turlough’ is an example of a perched lake: borehole data shows that the main water table lies 100 metres below the floor of the Carran depression. This can be explained by the fact that the floor of the depression is underlain by limestones that contain many bands of chert.

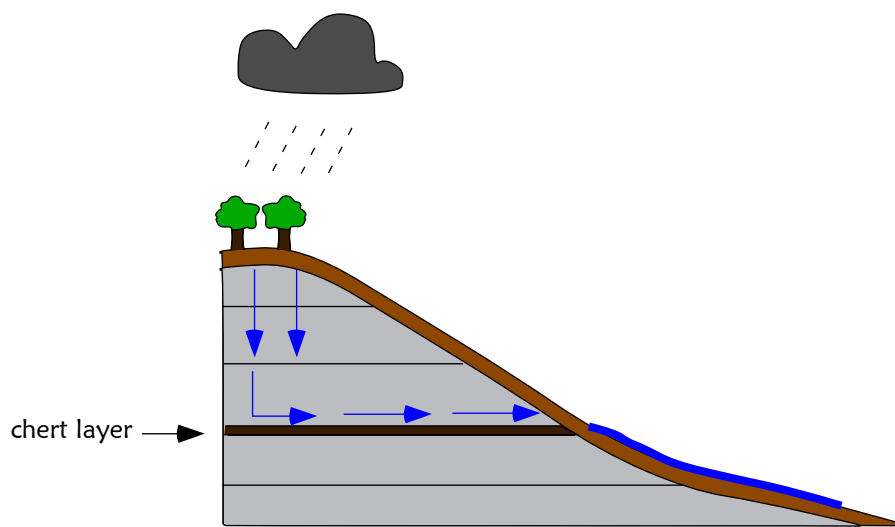


Fig. 1. Springs in the Burren

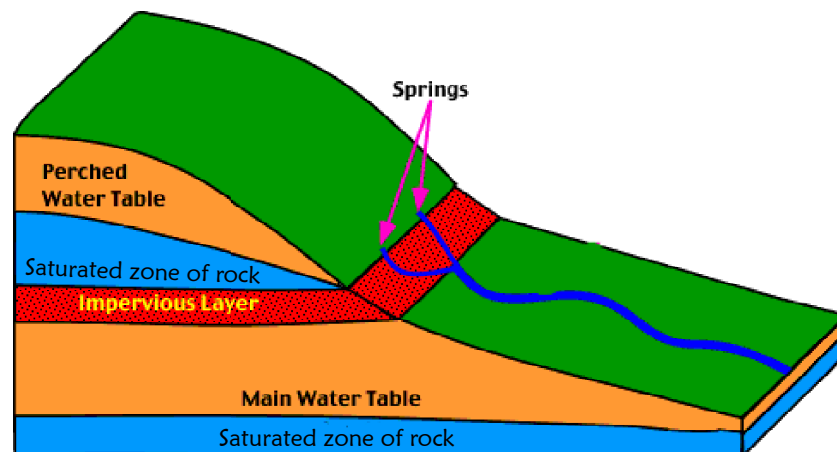


Fig. 2. Perched water table