

CAVE NOTES, COUNTY CLARE, IRELAND, 1986

by

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ABSTRACT

A second supplement to the book *Caves of County Clare* (Self, 1981).

INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of 'Cave Notes, County Clare and County Galway' (Boycott and Wilson, 1983), there have been further discoveries in the area covered by that paper and by *Caves of County Clare* (Self, 1981). New sites and extensions to known caves are now described, including the recently documented underwater caves off Doolin Point, known collectively as the Green Holes.

The caves are grouped geographically in an order corresponding to the chapters in the book (Self, 1981), and are listed alphabetically within each group except for Western Knockauns, where all sites from the recently discovered Pollnagrinn up to Poulmagree and A3c have now been included on an enlarged map (FIG. 1) and are numbered from 1 to 48, from south to north. Sites described previously are identified by name and also by the code number allocated in *Caves of County Clare* and its first supplement (Boycott and Wilson, 1983).

The grid references refer to the distance in centimetres east and north respectively from the south-west corner of the relevant 1:10560 series maps. The Green Holes can be located on sheet 8A, published with sheet 14; grid references in respect of these caves only are measured from the south-west corner of the inset sheet 8A, and not the south-west corner of sheet 14. A convenient point of reference is the tower on Crab Island: Clare 8A, E17.25, N25.15.

THE CAVES

The West Coast

DOOLIN POINT GREEN HOLES

Td. Ballaghaine

The existence of underwater caves off Doolin Point has been known to local sea divers for some years. The first investigation by cave divers was in 1984 (Glanvill, 1984) and so far six caves have been documented. Harbour Hole, Chert Ledge Cave and Through Cave lie at the bottom of the undersea cliff off the reef at Doolin Point; Fogg's Hole, Bedding Cave and Mermaid's Hole are at the base of the sea cliff between Doolin Point and Boodaun.

BEDDING CAVE

Alternative Name: Doolin Point Green Hole 4

Grid Ref.: Clare 8A, E20.25, N28.4

Td. Ballaghaine

Length ? Altitude -4m

This is a wide bedding cave with a vadose trench in the floor, which has not yet been explored (Glanvill, 1984a & b, 1985).

CHERT LEDGE CAVE

Alternative Name: Doolin Point Green Hole 2

Grid Ref.: Clare 8A, E18.7, N27.1

Td. Ballaghaine

Length 30m Altitude -15m

The entrance to Chert Ledge Cave is 50m seaward along the submarine cliff from Harbour Hole and leads into a 2m square canyon passage with two bands of chert forming ledges halfway up the passage. This has been followed for 30m to a

point where the passage narrows and turns left (north). A large fallen slab prevented further progress, but the passage could be seen to enlarge beyond. (Glanvill, 1984a & b, 1985, 1986b).

FOGG'S HOLE

Grid Ref.: Clare 8A, E20.0, N28.35 Td. Ballaghaline
Length 100m+ Altitude -8m

Dived by Tim Fogg from a small bay on the north side of Doolin Point for 100m to the surface in an enlarged inland joint known locally as Hell (Grid Ref. Clare 8A E19.5, N27.6). The cave continues inland beyond the open joint and has not yet been fully explored. (Glanvill, 1985, 1986b).

HARBOUR HOLE

Alternative Name: Doolin Point Green Hole 3
Grid Ref.: Clare 8A, E19.9, N26.8 Td. Ballaghaline
Length 45m Altitude -15m

Harbour Hole is the most southerly of the Green Holes. The entrance is at the top of a pile of boulders at the base of the submarine cliff, and leads into a canyon passage 1.7m high and 1.5m wide. This has been dived for 45m to a constriction in the passage formed by a fallen slab; open passage can be seen beyond. (Glanvill, 1984a & b, 1985, 1986b).

MERMAID'S HOLE

Alternative Name: Doolin Point Green Hole 5
Grid Ref.: Clare 8A, E20.75, N29.10 Td. Ballaghaline
Length 100m Altitude -10m

The entrance to Mermaid's Hole is in 10m of water at the bottom of the cliff under an obvious level change, half way between the bay at Boodaun and the entrance to Fogg's Hole. The entrance is 6m wide and 4m high. After 30m there is a low bedding passage to the left which has not yet been fully explored. Ten metres further on is a second mud-filled bedding cave, on the other side. The main passage continues as a 3m by 4m canyon passage for another 60m where it narrows and rises to the surface. At low tide there is limited airspace, but the passage closes down and cannot be followed (Bunce, 1986a; Stanton, 1986). The cave contains a noticeable flow of fresh water.

THROUGH CAVE

Alternative Name: Doolin Point Green Hole 1
Grid Ref.: Clare 8A, E18.45, N27.3 Td. Ballaghaline
Length 30m Altitude -15m

The south entrance to Through Cave is approximately 30m seaward from Chert Ledge Cave, on the submerged tip of the reef. The passage is a 3m diameter phreatic tube running north through the point and reaching a larger entrance in a boulder collapse chamber after 30m. The cave continues as a 3m wide bedding passage parallel with the cliff, and has not yet been fully explored (Glanvill, 1984a & b, 1985, 1986b).

MILNER'S BROWN HOLES

S2A

Grid Ref.: Clare 8A, between E24.0, N33.4 and E24.5, N33.6 Td. Doonmacfelim
Length approx. 60m Altitude 0m

These caves are to be found on the south side of the bay at Poulcraveen and are a series of phreatic tubes flooded at high tide and partially intersected by the cliff. The most extensive is 30m long and runs parallel to the cliff face. The westward end is blocked by boulders. The passages generally consist of 1m high by 1m wide boulder-floored phreatic tubes. They are in the same bed as the cave at Poulcraveen and may be part of the same system. (Milner, 1986).

POULSALLAGH

S1

Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E20.5, N9.3

Td. Ballyryan

Length 39m

This cave is longer than stated in *Caves of County Clare* (Self, 1981).

WOODPECKER'S HOLE

S2B

Alternative Name: Poll na darach

Grid Ref.: Clare 8A, E24.8, N33.6

Td. Doonmacelim

Length 4m Altitude 6m

A choked opening in the low bluff across the bay to the south-west of Poulcraveen has been dug for approximately 6m. The passage is a muddy crawl over boulders and appears to continue but further work is required (Irish Diaries, Whitsun 1986).

Western Knockauns Mountain

WESTERN KNOCKAUNS

Lack of detail on the area map in *Caves of County Clare* (Self, 1981) has led to confusion concerning the location of some sites (Bunce, 1986a). In an attempt to remedy this, a surface survey was carried out from Pollnagrinn to A3c. All karst sites have been noted on the accompanying map (FIG. 1), regardless of whether or not they have any potential importance. Sites already recorded are referred to by name and code number; descriptions are given of all other sites.

Sites numbered 1 to 10 inclusive are in Td. Ballynahown, and 11 to 48 are in Td. Knockaunsmountain (Irish Diaries, Whitsun 1986).

1. POLLNAGRINN

Alternative Name: Poll ag Gaire, Cave of the Smiles

Td. Ballynahown

Grid. Ref.: Clare 4, E48.3, N13.1

Depth 18m Altitude 207m

Pollnagrinn is a large depression taking a moderate stream, on the shale limestone boundary 400m south of Poulomega. Three sites in the depression have been dug (McDonald, 1985; Cronin and Lumley, 1986; Lumley, 1986b). The stream sink, Pollnagrinn 1, has been dug to a depth of 15m in a fluted shaft which enters a rift, too tight after 4m. Pollnagrinn 2, a small slot 6m south-west of Pollnagrinn 1, was also dug in very unstable boulders for 8m to the top of a 10m high canyon with the stream at the bottom, but collapsing boulders prevented access to the stream.

Pollnagrinn 3 is in the same depression but 12m west of Pollnagrinn 1. A partially unroofed canyon passage had an unstable floor which was dug out to a 6m pitch. At the bottom of this a rift leads down and back towards sites 1 & 2. The stream can be heard at the bottom of this rift. At present, all three sites have been infilled to safeguard livestock.

This site is mistakenly referred to as Pollnagarsuin by Lumley (1986b).

2, 3, 4. Blocked sinks.

5. POULOMEGA (A4)

5A. Blocked sink for Poulomega.

6, 7, 8. Blocked sinks.

9. Choked, marshy sink. A stream runs past this site.

10. POLL BALLYNAHOWN (A4a)

11. Sink under wall.

12. 2m square boulder depression with a stream sinking into it.

13. POLLALPHA

Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E50.2, N19.5

Td. Knockaunsmountain

A stream sinks in a marshy depression under a small cliff, approximately 1.5m high. The removal of rocks from the sink allowed entry via a 1m drop into a small

- chamber 1m high and 1.2m wide. The floor slopes into a narrow canyon, too tight to follow. From this point a stream could be heard (Irish Diaries, Whitsun 1986).
14. A grike, 1m in length, with a choked bedding plane at its base.
15. COW SKULL CAVE
 Grid. Ref.: Clare 4, E50.3, N19.6 Td. Knockaunmountain
 A canyon passage, unroofed for the first 5m, leads to a sharp left-hand meander, which continues for approximately 3m to a corner, too tight to pass. Referred to by Lumley (1986a) as 'unnamed open canyon passage'.
16. A tight canyon passage, 2m long, is situated in a depression containing several thorn bushes.
17. POLLABER
 Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E50.7, N20.4 Td. Knockaunmountain
 Length 300m (estimated) Altitude 225m
 Two fresh collapses in the field 200m north of Poll Ballynahown were investigated by Aberystwyth Caving Club in 1985 (Jones, 1985c). A 5m drop leads into a small chamber with a tight canyon passage leading off to the south-west. This can be followed, mainly at stream level, for about 300m until it becomes silted.
- 17A. A collapse in shale and mud, 2.4m deep, leads into an impassable canyon with an aural connection with Pollaber.
- 17B. A choked depression.
18. A boulder-choked hole.
19. A stream sinks by an area of limestone pavement.
20. A stream sinks off marshy ground into a grike.
21. Twin blocked sinks.
22. POLLNAGARSUIN
 Alternative Name: Hole of the LADS.
 Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E51.5, N21.7 Td. Knockaunmountain
 Length 80m (estimated) Altitude 230m
 A depression 100m north of Pollaber at the end of a shallow gully running off the shale, was dug by the LADS caving group in 1984 (Jones, 1985b). A tight stream canyon containing some fine formations was passed for 80m, mostly at stream level, to an impassably tight meander. The heading for this cave in Lumley (1986b) is a misprint, and the description refers to Pollnagrinn.
23. An impenetrable hole by the side of a stream.
24. A mossy hole, too tight to enter.
25. A small dry canyon passage, too tight to enter.
26. A fresh collapse (May 1986) into a dry bedding plane – impassable.
27. A small gorge with an impassably tight canyon passage.
- 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34. Impassable sinks.
35. Twin choked sinks.
36. Sink capped by slab.
37. A3f.
38. UPPER POULNAGREE (A3)
- 38A. Sink for Upper Poulmagree.
39. A3e. Impassable sink. Can be approached from underground via an inlet on the left in Trí Eagnai Mouncaí Inlet.
40. Sink by ruined wall.
41. TRI EAGNAI MOUNCAÍ INLET (A3d)
42. Blocked canyon passage.
43. Sink blocked by boulders.
44. A3b

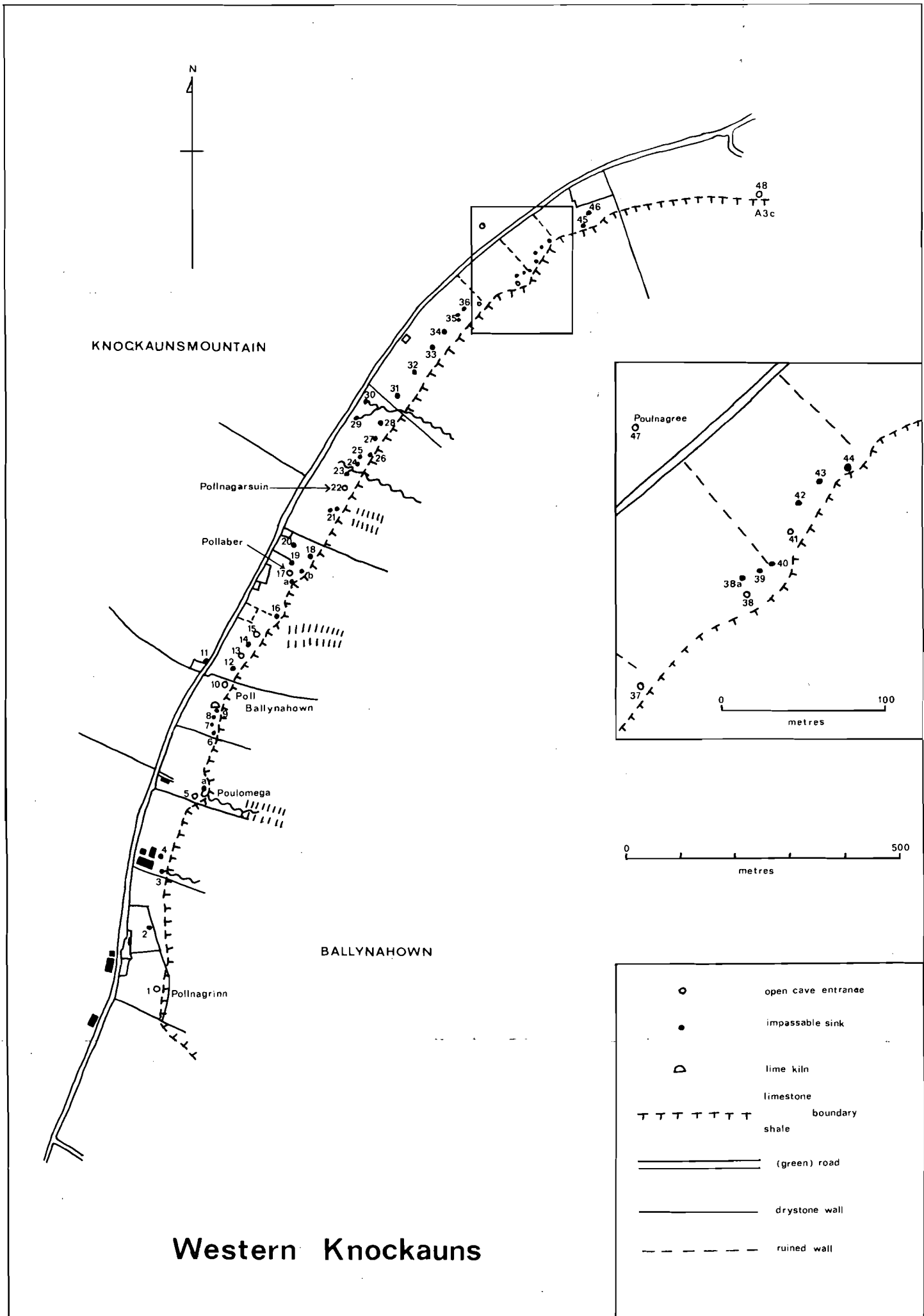


FIG. 1 — MAP OF WESTERN KNOCKAUNS MOUNTAIN, SHOWING LOCATION OF SITES REFERRED TO IN TEXT, PP. 345-346 AND 349. THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN TD. KNOCKAUNSMOUNTAIN AND TD. BALLYNAHOWN RUNS ALONG THE WALL BETWEEN 10 AND 11.

POLL AN TOBAR

Td. Ballyelly Co. Clare

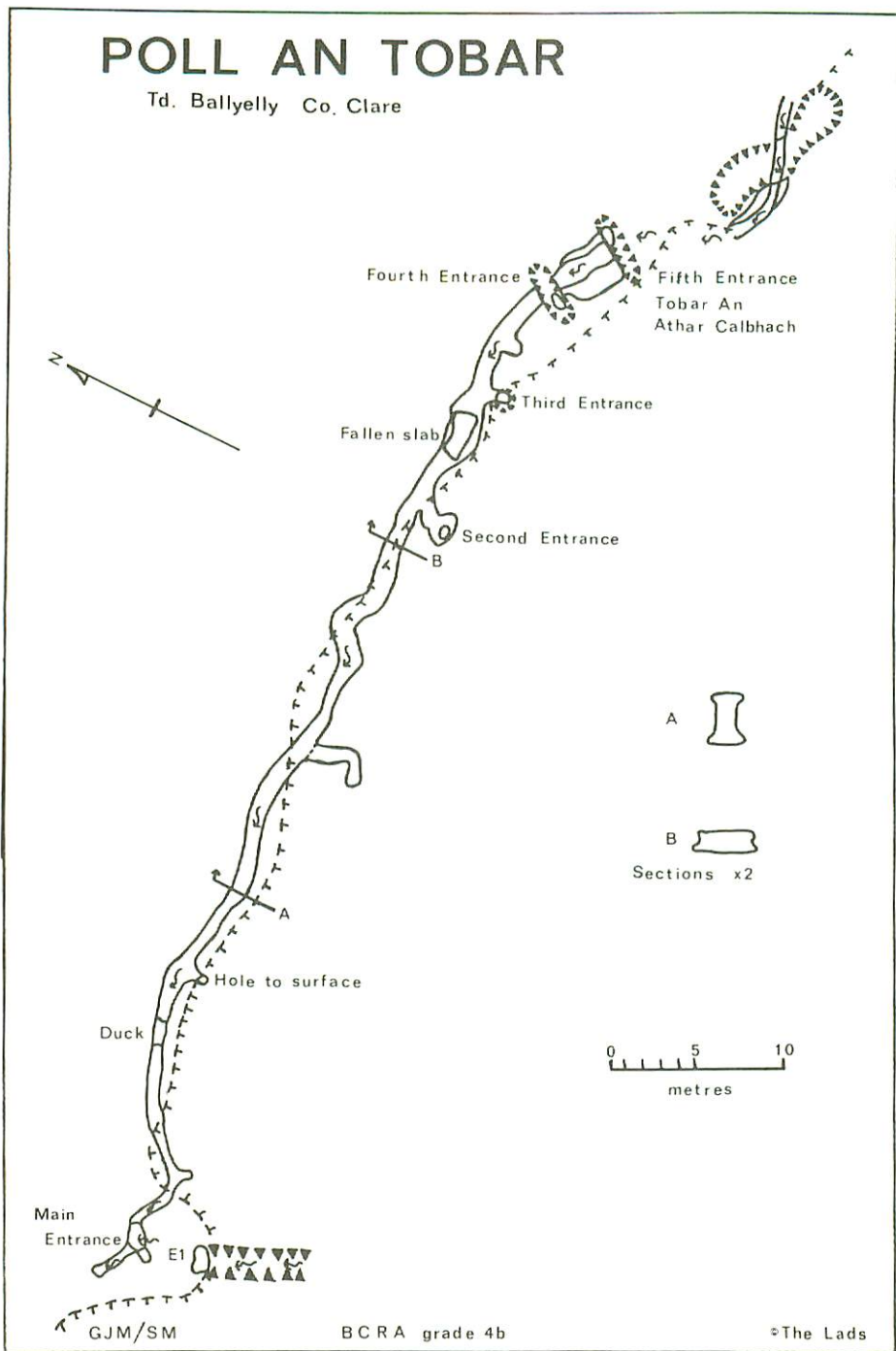


FIG. 2 — POLL AN TOBAR

- 45, 46. Choked sinks.
 47. POULNAGREE (A3a) Main Entrance.
 48. A3c. Length 10m. A tight canyon passage running south has recently been entered (Bunce, 1986a).

Oughtdarra**MOONMILK CAVE**

A16g

Alternative Name: Pollnangel'de

Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E44.5, N15.4

Td. Ballynahown

Length 280m

An excavation in the final boulder chamber by the 1st Dublin Venture Scouts (Jones, 1985a) led into a decorated chamber followed by a long tube, half filled with mud. A dig has been started here. A total of 30m has been added to the length of the cave.

North-West Slieve Elva**POLL AN TOBAR**

E1a

Alternative Name: Cave of the Holy Well

Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E80.8, N43.1

Td. Ballyelly

Length 96m Altitude 280m

(see FIG. 2)

A fresh collapse on the shale limestone boundary about 90m west of Tobar an Athar Calbach (Tobernacahircallough) leads via a duck to a small, well decorated active streamway 0.5m wide and 1.5m high (Cronin, 1984). After 40m it becomes low and a small hole is open to the surface. The low crawl leads past two further surface holes to a final one 5m from the well. The whole cave follows the shale limestone boundary, and the stream flows from east to west towards E1. The water from E1 enters the cave briefly at its most westerly point, and is next seen as the waterfall in Pollapooka 1.

POLL NA FHIA

B5

Alternative Name: Cave of the Deer

Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E60.7, N24.1

Td. Knockaunmountain

Length 50m Depth 10m Altitude 244m

Poll na Fhia is a stream sink at the shale limestone boundary, half filled with domestic rubbish. The stream flows off to the south at the bottom of the entrance climb and cannot be followed. A short climb down over boulders and a crawl over shale sediment leads into a well decorated bedding plane (Bunce and Judd, 1985 a & b). A further short climb leads into a 3m high dry canyon passage. This reduces in size over about 25m to a squeeze into a small chamber. A stream emerges from one wall and flows into a low bedding plane. The survey shows this to be within a few meters of the end of the upper inlet in Poll na gCéim. No connection has been made due to a mud lump in the final chamber. The cave gets its name from an antler found here.

The water sinking at the entrance of B5 has been positively dye traced to the Upper Coolagh Valley Cave (B4 - B6) (Irish Diaries, 1958; Tratman, 1969). It is also about the same volume of water as in the lower inlet in Poll na gCéim, and the streamway below sump 1 in Poll na gCéim is littered with domestic rubbish of a similar nature to that in the entrance to B5. No other shakeholes in the area are obviously polluted, and further dye traces are needed to clarify the situation.

POLL NA GCÉIM

B5a

Alternative Name: Cave of the Steps

Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E61.4, N23.9

Td. Knockaunmountain

Length 200m Depth 135m Altitude 242m

The entrance is a large boulder-roofed grike with a 0.6m circular hole at the northern end, covered by an old oil drum, which should be replaced after trips. The 4.5m entrance

pitch can be free-climbed with difficulty, but a ladder is advisable, a bolt belay is situated on a slab 5m away. This pitch leads to a boulder slope and a 5m pitch into a chamber. A small stream enters at this point, and is thought to be the water from the end of Poll na Fhia. The chamber is followed by a 31m pitch decorated with soft flowstone. A high rift leads to four further pitches, 5.1m, 3.4m, 5.9m, and 8.5m. At this point the stream volume is doubled by an inlet, thought to be from the entrance of Poll na Fhia. A small passage leads on, dropping down a series of climbs to a shallow lake followed by a sump. The depth of the cave at this point is 74m. Any high level leads in this area have been pushed to rapid conclusions (Bunce and Judd, 1985a; Jones, 1985c).

Sump 1 is 12m long and 3m deep and is followed by a small chert waterfall and a series of cascades descending 6m in a narrow passage, thought by some to show evidence of faulting, although this has not yet been proved. The passage gradually enlarges and sump 2 is reached after 30m. The sump is 10m long, through a bedding plane constricted by mud. A short length of high rift passage leads to the 6m long sump 3, also followed by a chert waterfall. 53 meters of well decorated crawling passage gradually enlarges to 1.5m wide by 6m high and ends at sump 4, 14m long, 3m deep and constricted by a boulder in the mud floor (Bunce and Judd, 1985b). The passage beyond, at first 2m high, enlarges to 3.5m and after 30m reaches a 7m pitch. Further pitches of 2m, 8m, 7m and 10m lead to a passage 3m wide and 15m high ending at sump 5. Approximately 50m separates sumps 4 and 5. Sump 5 has been dived for 10m in high water conditions and poor visibility to no definite conclusion (Jones, 1986b; Judd, 1986 a & c).

Above sump 5 is a 30m high aven with a large inlet stream. This point has been located, using a molephone, as being below a point on the surface at the southern edge of the Balliny Depression at Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E61.5, N27.4. This is approximately 100m south of the present end of Pollballiny and 75m deeper.

Coolagh River Valley

POULNAGUN FOXHOLES DIG

B11

Grid Ref.: Clare 8, E46.9, N55.9

Td. Poulmagun

Length 30m Depth 10m

The rift at the bottom of the B11 depression on the north side has been dug by the Leicester University Caving Club (Joyce, 1985a & b). A tight squeeze leads into 14m of passage. The removal of a further constriction allowed access into a further section of narrow passage and a right angled bend, named St. Gabrielle's Bend. This was enlarged for some 2m into walking sized passage, which widens and is followed by a 3.6m free climb into a larger passage ending in a mud and shale choke.

The reference to this site as B11b in Joyce (1985a) is incorrect. B11b is a small swallet at the shale edge of Grid Ref. Clare 8, E48.6, N57.1 (Perratt and Tratman, 1975, p. 90).

Eastern Slieve Elva

LISMORAHAN HOUSE CAVE

Grid Ref.: Clare 5, E0.3, N20.9

Td. Lismorahaun

Length 160m Altitude 220m

The cave entrance is located by a bramble-filled shakehole 120m north-east of the road by Pollismorahaun (E9a) (Jeffreys, 1985; Macpherson, 1985). The shakehole itself has a stream at the bottom, but this is too tight to follow in either direction. A passage leads from a dry earth-floored chamber over boulders into a clean-washed finely scalloped passage. A stal blockage was passed with difficulty and the passage beyond drops down into a low streamway, well decorated with old formations encrusted with sediment. The stream leaves to the left, under an impassably low arch. Upstream, 150m of crawling passage leads to an impenetrably low tight bedding plane. About halfway along this passage a high cross passage can be followed for 15m south to a calcited choke and 5m north where it becomes too tight. At the end, the cave is within 20m of Lismorahaun Farmhouse.

The stream probably comes from sinks 32 and 33 (Tratman, 1969, p. 158), and may emerge as one of the inlets to Cotter's Gallery in Poulmagollum, almost directly below.

POLLMORANGIE (Eastern Slieve Elva)

Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E91.2, N23.2

Td. Lismorahaun

This site is marked as sink 32 in Tratman (1969, p. 158). The water now sinks in the middle of the culvert under the road in a hole 0.75m square and blocked by fluted boulders which could not be removed manually. It is probably the upstream sink for Lismorahaun House Cave (Irish Diaries, 1984, p. 16).

POULNAGOLLUM – POULELVA SYSTEM

Poulnagollum Pothole

E7

Grid Ref.: Clare 4, E91.5, N27.7

Td. Caherbullog

Two major extensions have recently been made in this system.

Purgatory Pothole Club have passed the stal blockage at the end of Sump Canyon to reach the continuation of the canyon (Jones, 1986a). This was followed for 120m to an area of boulder breakdown. A dig here gained access to a breakdown chamber 6m by 4m by 10m high. A climb down through a hole at the end of this chamber rejoins the streamway. A side passage off the breakdown chamber has been pushed for 30m to a further area of breakdown. The total length of new passage is about 300m.

Cork Speleological Group have found an extension of 530m trending south from the Maze (Jones, 1985b). A slot at the back of the final chamber of the Maze drops into a small streamway which after 250m of crawling leads via a duck to a boulder chamber with a large stream entering from the west. Downstream, walking passage can be followed for 150m to a sump. A narrow inlet from here can be followed for 100m to a choked 10m aven.

Western Poulacapple**CULLAUN ONE**

C1

Grid Ref.: Clare 5, E18.2, N16.1

Td. Cullaun

Length 3260m

The collapse at the downstream end of the Gaffers Gulch Old Streamway has been passed (Bunce, 1986b; Jones, 1986b & c) to a 2m high canyon passage. Areas of breakdown and boulders make frequent crawling necessary. The passage continues to a boulder choke after 400m which is passed via a bedding plane at floor level, 150m long and 1m high. A crack in the roof at the end of this allows access to a further section of canyon passage ending in a loose boulder choke.

Several inlet passages have been noted. Of those before the bedding plane crawl, all appear to be blocked, except one which was followed towards the point in the Gaffers Gulch Old Streamway, before the choke, where the stream disappears. A tributary passage joining from the right in the passage after the bedding plane, appears open, but is narrow and has not yet been pushed.

North Central Burren**DEELIN BEG RESURGENCE**

Grid Ref.: Clare 6, E12.2, N11.5

Td. Deelin Beg

Length 4m Altitude 137m

This is a small resurgence 50m off the road. The entrance is 2m wide, 1m high and 1m deep; a small impenetrable canyon passage is visible leading off south for 4m (Irish Diaries, May 1985, p. 11).

South Central Burren**CAVE OF THE WILD HORSES**

K1

Grid Ref.: Clare 9, E57.7, N47.7

Td. Kilcorney

The passage at the bottom of the pitch in Eastern Series has been looked at again, as earlier published details were unclear. The pitch is 20m long, not very tight, but a sideways

movement over a boulder is necessary halfway down. The second pitch (7m) is tight and needs a 0.5m stemple belay. The passage at the bottom of the pitches is 10m high and 2m wide with a gour floor. After 16m there is a choked passage to the right. After a further 8m a gour dam blocks the passage. This was passed and a further 8m of passage entered which ended in a sump. This fits the description in Wilson (1965). The sump is estimated to be about 50m from the side sump in Lower Gour Passage (Boycott, Mullan and Wilson, 1983) and at the same level.

A choked passage in the Upper Main Series 30m beyond Main Aven, on the south side of the passage, was dug. Seven meters of tight muddy crawling passage led upward to a 3m diameter chamber, 4m high, named Bear Chamber. A choked tube was dug out for a further 4m before becoming too tight. The air in this chamber was high in carbon dioxide (Irish Diaries, May 1985).

After the major extensions to the cave in 1983 reports have been received of the presence of passages not noted on the 1983 survey, particularly in Frog Passage and the area before 36B squeeze. It seems possible that moving mudbanks may be responsible for these anomalies.

KILCORNEY SIX

K6

Grid Ref.: Clare 9, E57.0, N51.8

Td. Poulmaskagh

Length 23m Altitude 115m

A small opening in scrub on the west side of the elevated limestone pavement south of K4 and K5 leads to a tight squeeze round a right-angled bend into 10m of rift passage 0.3m wide and 2m high with two tight rifts leading off on the east side. The first is 6m long and choked. The second is 3m long and too tight to enter. The whole cave is coated in moonmilk. K6a, a small hole in the scarp 9m south of K6, is too tight to enter (Lumley, 1984).

MOSQUITO HOLE

K3b

Grid Ref.: Clare 9, E54.7, N48.3

Td. Kilcorney

The grid reference given in Boycott and Wilson (1983) is incorrect.

South-Eastern Burren

GLENCURRAN CAVE

Grid Ref.: Clare 10, E14.0, N20.8

Td. Tullycommon

Length 700m

The dig at the end of Grit Crawl has been extended to about 300m of tight rift passage trending north-east to south-west (Jones, 1984, 1986b; Judd, 1986b). At the south-west end is a 10m pitch into a small chamber in which the sound of a large stream can be heard. The rift passage carries an intermittent stream, and a pool at the end of Grit Crawl floods up after heavy rain.

Ennis Area

POLLAPHUCA

Grid Ref.: Clare 33, E28.7, N38.9

Td. Gortmore

The pitch at the downstream end of the cave can be free-climbed. The sump is choked and undivable, but could be dug in dry weather (Glanvill, 1986a).

POLLNAGOLLOR

Grid Ref.: Clare 33, E44.4, N12.2

Td. Nooaff East

Length 290m

The upstream sump has been dived for 10m to a cascading streamway (Stanton, 1986). At the upstream end, a crawl, duck and squeeze through boulders enter a chamber with water entering through joints in the roof. There is a well decorated oxbow on the left of the stream. The length of passage beyond the sump is about 40m.

East Clare**POULNAGORDON**

Grid Ref.: Clare 42, E65.3, N53.1

Td. Feaghquin

The cave at this site mentioned in *Caves of County Clare* (Self, 1981, p. 205) consists of 30m of boulder maze passages near an intermittent sink. A new entrance has been opened up 15m to the north-west (Bunce, 1986b; Jones, 1986b) and 300m of phreatic rift maze passage entered. Dry weather is necessary for further exploration.

A large canyon passage is known to pass under the road 300m west of Poulmagordon. This was discovered in 1984 by council workmen when a mechanical excavator nearly fell into it. The workmen explored the passage for an unknown distance in both directions, but before cavers had an opportunity to investigate, the passage was filled in, with a 2m diameter concrete pipe taking the flow under the road.

Kinvarra-Gort Lowlands**COOLE CAVE**

Grid Ref.: Galway 122, E87.0, N48.5

Td. Coole Demesne

The final sump reached by Farr in 1983 (Farr, 1984) has been passed (Stanton, 1986) after 23m to a well decorated rift 15m long. The sump continues to the right and has been dived for 16m, but lack of time prevented further exploration.

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The Society would be grateful for any further information on cave sites in the relevant area, as it is intended to publish further articles of this nature at regular intervals.

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