

## CAVE NOTES : COUNTY CLARE AND COUNTY GALWAY, IRELAND

by

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### INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the last Cave Notes (Boycott *et al*, 1991) there have been further discoveries in County Clare and County Galway, which are detailed below.

The caves are grouped geographically in order corresponding to the chapters in Caves of County Clare (Self, 1981) and are listed alphabetically within each group. The grid references refer to the distance in centimetres east and north respectively from the Southwest corner of the relevant 1 : 10560 series maps. The Green Holes can be located on sheet 8A, published with sheet 14; grid references on this sheet are measured from the Southwest corner of the inset sheet 8A and not that of sheet 14. A convenient point of reference is the tower on Crab Island: Clare 8A, E17.25, N25.15. As 1 : 50000 series maps with the Irish National Grid shown are now available, grid references in this form are also given. However as these maps are not of a sufficiently large scale to enable small cave entrance to be accurately located, both systems will continue to be used.

New sites are listed with alternative names, if any, and townland (Td.) together with length, depth and altitude where appropriate. These are given for previously known sites only where a change has occurred.

### THE WEST COAST

#### DOOLIN POINT GREEN HOLES

##### HOT TIP CAVE

Grid Reference: Clare 8A, E21.0, N30.8 Td. Ballaghline  
R 0565 9767

The grid reference for this cave and the position on the map in Boycott *et al* (1991, p 84) are incorrect. The cave is at the north end of the bench, half way between Mermaid's Hole and Urchin Cave.

##### JOE'S CAVE

Grid Reference: Clare 8A, E20.6, N30.4 Td. Ballaghline  
R 0560 9763

This cave is in the position marked for Hot Tip Cave in Boycott *et al* (1991 p 84).

##### MERMAID'S HOLE

Grid Reference: Main Entrance, Clare 8A, E20.75, N29.1 Td. Ballaghline  
R 0565 9750

Length 1500 m (estimated)

Since the publication of the last Cave Notes (Boycott *et al.*, 1991) the cave has been explored further (Judd, 1995, Farr, 1991a & b p29). As published descriptions are rather confusing an overall description is given here.

The main entrance is a bedding plane, followed by a canyon 5 m by 3 m. The main route is a passage trending east, following the bedding and jointing. The furthest point reached is 935 m from the entrance. Bedding passages just inside the entrance have been followed to the southwest to the Southern entrance and towards the Hell complex and on the north side to the North entrance, after 85 m. This bedding can also be followed northeast under surface blowholes towards Poll Ballaghaline but this area is not fully explored or surveyed.

After 50 m of the main route a canyon leads away to the northeast and surfaces after a further 50 m in a blocked rift.

A second small canyon may be followed 100 m from the entrance. This trends northeast and surfaces after 60 m in Quiet Waters, a 3 m square blocked chamber (Farr, 1991a). A small hole in the roof leads to a second small chamber with no way on (Farr, 1991b p29).

Three hundred metres from the entrance is the next junction. A keyhole shaped passage, 0.5 m by 1 m, heads northeast and enlarges slightly. One hundred and seventy metres from the junction, a well decorated airbell known as Pirates Paradise is reached. This is followed by a second airbell and a muddy chamber. At low tide these are linked by a continuous air space. In the west wall is the entrance to a short rift passage. To the northeast a very muddy passage with a small stream leads to a duck under a block, followed by a further 18 m of walking size passage ending in a mud choke.

The main route turns south from the junction in a larger passage 3 m by 2 m, and reaches another junction after 30 m. A low passage leads southwest from here, which becomes too tight to follow after 50 m.

The main route is now trending east. At 450 m from the entrance is a small airbell, off-route on the south side, named Piscean Bell. The main route becomes smaller and is heading southeast. The next junction is at 550 m where a small canyon on the north side has been explored for 20 m before becoming low and choked with silt.

Seven hundred metres into the cave, Pooka's Peril, a 30 m long rift airbell may be entered by ascending on the southern side of the passage. After this point the passage turns to the northeast and changes in character from a low bedding to a 1 m wide rift which increases in height to 4m. This passage leads to air surface after 20m. Thirty metres of air-filled passage, named Merrow's Mirth, is followed by a sump which has not been fully explored (Farr, 1991a).

The main route branches off 20 m before Merrow's Mirth, at a distance of 770 m from the entrance, and continues east in a comfortable 1.5 m by 1 m passage. After 130 m a squeeze 5 m long has been passed (Judd, 1994) and after this the passage turns north east. After 35 m a junction is reached, 7 m deep at high tide, which represents the current limit of exploration.

#### URCHIN CAVE

Grid reference: Clare 8A, E22.1, N31.8  
R 0576 9778

Td. Doonmacfelim

Alternative Name: Poulcaoen

The cliff at the entrance to this cave has been severely battered by the sea and access to the cave down the cliff now requires a 6 m ladder and long tether (Irish Diaries, 1996).

## OTHER SITES

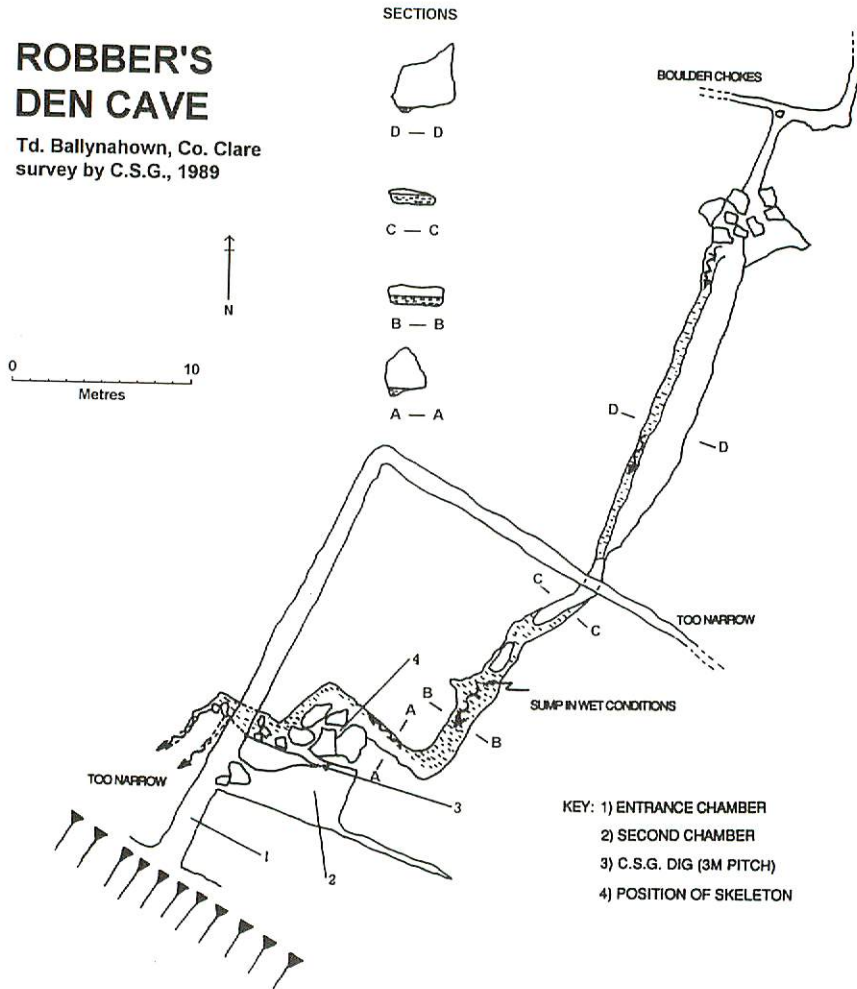
S1b

Grid Reference: Clare 4, E19.9, N10.1  
M 8539 1888

Td. Ballyryan

Length 6m

Ten metres south of S1a, on the cliff above Poulsallagh is a small washed out joint which can be passed to a small canyon passage which leads to a ledge on the cliff (Irish Diaries, 1993).



**Figure 1:** Survey of Robber's Den Cave.  
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## WESTERN KNOCKAUNS MOUNTAIN

## POLL BALLYNAHOWN (A4a)

Grid Reference: Clare 4, E49.3, N18.2  
M 1164 0274

Td. Ballynahown

The entrance to this cave is blocked by boulders following a collapse (Kelly, 1995).

## TRÍ EAGNAI MOUNCAÍ INLET (A3d)

Grid Reference: Clare 4, E54.3, N25.8  
M 1217 0354

Td. Knockaunsmountain

The field containing the inlet entrances to Poulmagree has been bulldozed and this entrance is blocked. The others are still accessible (Irish Diaries, 1994), but conifers are being planted in the area which may lead to further changes.

## OUGHTDARRA

## ROBBERS DEN CAVE (A16c)

Grid Reference: Clare 4, E42.7, N15.2  
M 1095 0243

Td. Ballynahown

Length 130 m

This cave has been extended by digging (Cremin, 1991). Cork Speleological Society started a dig in the second chamber (Bone Chamber) and in 1989 broke through into a third boulder chamber entered by a tight 5 m pitch. Downstream the passage chokes after 5 m, upstream it can be followed for 70 m through a duck to walking passage and a T-junction where the passage is too tight in both directions. Human bones were found in the third chamber and were excavated by the Department of Archaeology, University College Cork (Anderson and McCarthy, 1991). The human skeleton is not complete and might have been moved by floodwater. It has not been dated. The only artefacts found were two lignite rings. Animal bones with cut marks and limpet shells were taken as evidence of human occupation of the outer chamber (Survey, Figure 1).

## NORTH-WEST SLIEVE ELVA

## B1e

Grid Reference: Clare 4, E69.9, N30.5  
M 1382 0404

Td. Derreen South

Length 10 m

This site has recently been used as a rubbish tip. It has been dug to a tight rift squeeze into a tight streamway (Porter, 1995).

## POLLDERREEN (B1j)

Grid Reference: Clare 4, E69.6, N29.9  
M 1379 0398

Td. Derreen South

Length 80 m

This cave has been surveyed and an oxbow in the roof followed. An attempt to pass the terminal flowstone obstruction failed (Ellis, 1993 p 199 - 203).

## POLL NA gCÉIM (B5a)

Grid Reference: Clare 4, E61.4, N23.9  
M 1292 0334

Td. Knockaunmountain

Length 890 m (est)  
Depth 181 m (est)

The boulder choke 250 m beyond the end of Sump 5 (Boycott *et al.*, 1991) has been passed by digging to a further 250 m of walking passage, interspersed with tight boulder squeezes and ducks, to Sump 6. This has been dived and is 15 m long. Poll na gCéim 7 is a further section of narrow rift passage, with one 10 m high aven, which ends in a further boulder choke. Water can be heard falling away (Judd and Mullan, 1994).

## THE COOLAGH RIVER VALLEY

## POLL AN CHÁISC (B8b)

Alternative names: Crucifixion Cave, Duggan's Well Cave, Easter Cave

Grid reference: Clare 4, E49.7, N9.4  
M 1169 0181

Td. Ballynahown

Length 675 m (surveyed) + 200 m (est)

B8b is a sink at the southern end of Knockauns Mountain which drains a large area of bog. It has recently been dye traced to Poll Cloghaun (Bunce, 1995a). This conflicts with the tentative result of a UBSS dye trace in 1972, to Oughtdarra East, but seems much more likely. The sink has been dug to reveal a tight meandering canyon passage with two tight squeezes, which drops into a slightly larger streamway at Six Way Chamber. Downstream is a meandering canyon with fine formations. The passage descends steeply and becomes smaller, necessitating crawling in the floor of the canyon. The floor cuts through a chert band, into a small chamber at the head of a 20 m split pitch (12 m and 8 m). A high rift continues for 50 m to a series of avens and half way along this passage a crawl between boulders leads to a sump (Survey, Figure 2).

## POL-AN-IONAIN (A5)

Grid Reference: Clare 8, E32.7, N51.2  
R 0980 9983

Td. Craggycorrada West

A small extension to this cave was omitted from Self (1981). A dig in the Boardroom, the muddy ledge at the south end of Main Chamber, through a muddy U-tube entered a well decorated chamber, Candy Chamber. The tube continues beyond the chamber (McFadden, 1979). The entrance to this extension was choked with mud in 1995.

## POLL CLOGHAUN (B10f)

Grid Reference: Clare 8, E49.9, N60.0  
M 1162 0076

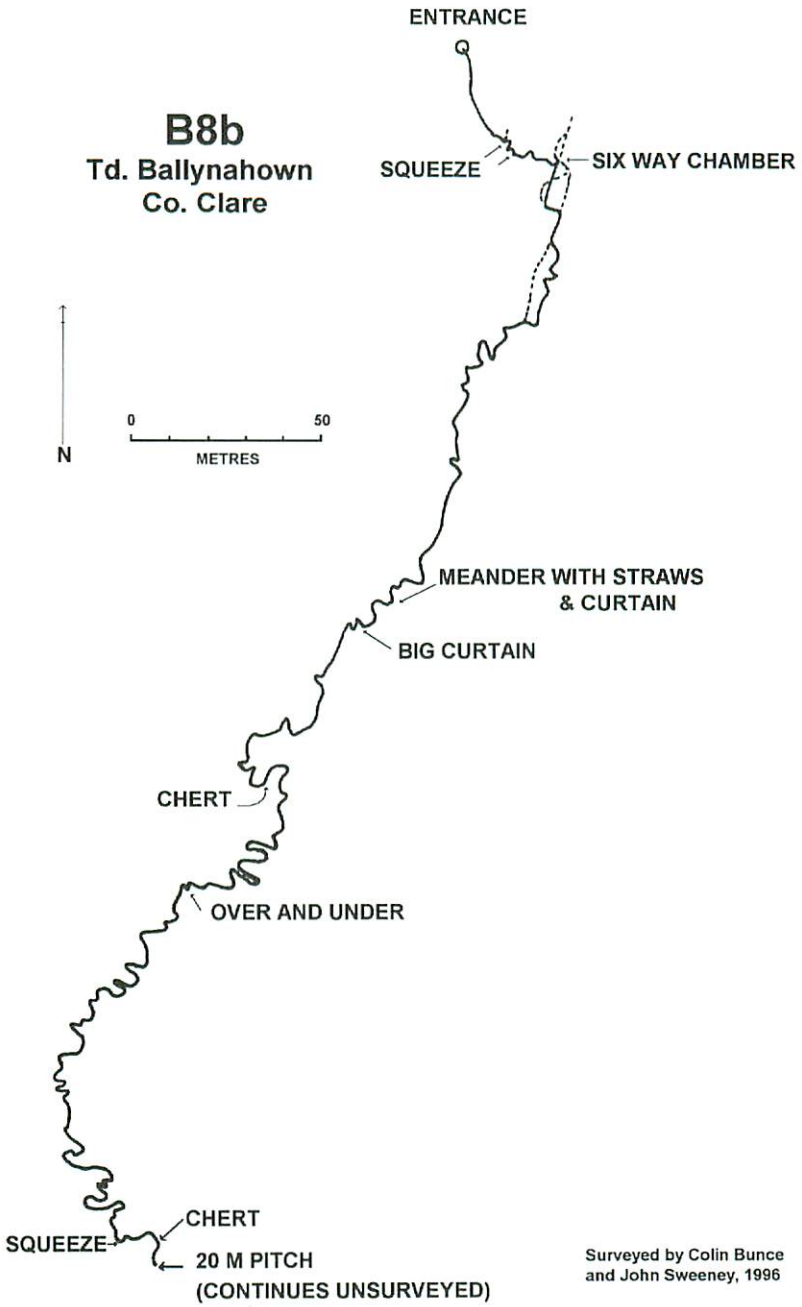
Td. Cloghaun

Length 256 m

The upstream boulder choke has been extended for a further 20 m through boulders, the passage trends north (Bunce, 1995a). The stream has been dye traced from Poll an Cháisc (B8b), which has also been extended by digging (q.v.).

Diving in the downstream sump has added a further 20 m of passage, which trends west. Progress was stopped by mudbanks (Judd, 1994 p28).

An attempt to dye trace the main stream in the Coolagh River Cave to the main stream in Poll Cloghaun using leucophore was unsuccessful (C. Bunce, *pers. comm.*).



**Figure 2:** Survey of B8b, Poll an Cháisc.

Survey by C. Bunce

## EASTERN SLIEVE ELVA

## KILLEANY RISING (F1)

Grid Reference: Clare 5, E1.9, N1.1  
M 1639 0080

Td. Killeany

Length 10m

The passage at the resurgence was entered during a drought. The west side of the bedding plane can be followed for 3 m before it becomes too tight. The east side is larger and can be followed for 7 m in a passage 0.6 m high, with 10 to 20 cm of airspace, to a hole to the surface. The way on underwater is too tight (Irish Diaries, 1996).

## POULNAGOLLUM POTHOLE - POULNAGOLLUM/POULELVA SYSTEM (E7)

Grid Reference: Clare 4, E91.5, N27.7  
M 1610 0375

Td. Caherbullog

Length estimated 14,468 m, (surveyed 13,920 m.)

Several extensions have been made in this system.

An inlet to Short Gallery, Upper Poulmagollum, 10 m downstream from the terminal choke, on the west side, has been followed for approximately 300 m in an extremely tight and sharp stream passage to a stalagmite grill. The passage could be seen to continue beyond and has not been surveyed due to its intimidating nature (Ellis, 1993 p197 - 199). An inlet on the east side about half way along Short Gallery has also been followed for 50 m to a sharp 'S' bend.

A further inlet on the east side, 190 m upstream from Pollbinn entered by a 2 m climb has been explored for 30 m of low crawling to a shale debris choke. The water is likely to come from E5 (Irish Diaries, 1994).

A previously un-noted inlet on the west side of Branch Passage, half way between Main Junction and the Waterfall, has been followed. A narrow canyon is entered by a muddy climb and 10 m of traversing leads to a climb down to floor level where the passage is 1 m wide for 10 m after which it narrows but is passable at floor level for a further 10 m to a boulder choke (Irish Diaries, 1992).

A 208 m long extension has also been found off Branch Passage Gallery, on the west side, 17 m upstream from the decorated aven. This passage, called the Citric Series, starts as a previously choked muddy tube and leads to a calcite floored canyon 1.5 m by 0.6 m. After 150 m a junction is reached. Right leads to a gour choke after 28 m and left, following the stream, leads to a second junction. Left here enters a small chamber with the stream entering through an impassable hole; right leads to a low gravelly crawl which becomes too tight after 15 m (Kavanagh, *et al* 1995).

## LISDOONVARNA AREA

## F3a

Grid Reference: Clare 8, E82.7, N41.2  
R 1508 9877

Td. Lisdoonvarna

This is the sink for the flood rising F3. It is thoroughly choked with boulders.

## F3b

Grid Reference: Clare 8, E82.8, N41.3  
R 1509 9878

Td. Lisdoonvarna

This is a flood overflow sink north of F3a. A hole down through boulders has been dug for a short distance (C. Bunce, *pers. comm.*).



## F3c

Grid Reference: Clare 8, E81.0, N42.2  
R 1490 9888

Td. Lisdoonvarna

On the north side of the flood channel from F3b to St Brendan's Well is a choked sink.

## POULTALLOON (F5)

Alternative Names: Poll Talún, Poll Talúin  
Grid Reference: Clare 8, E74.0, N52.9  
M 1416 0001

Td. Ballydonohoe

Length 1910 m

A tight squeeze over boulders 8 m from the entrance was first passed in July 1995 (Bunce, 1995b). After 10 m a 1 m square canal passage is reached. The canal continues to a bedding plane, which develops into a passage 1.5 by 1 m with abundant formations. After 170 m the stream can be followed down cascades to a fallen block. 150 m further on the stream is lost and the dry canyon enters a sizeable and well decorated collapse chamber with three routes on. The main stream enters from the left and can be followed upstream to a point where daylight can be seen, very close to the entrance. Downstream, the obvious route is a well decorated dry canyon, which should not be followed. A hole down enters a low streamway which enlarges when the dry canyon rejoins after 150 m. A short crawl leads to the head of a 4 m climb into the main streamway, near a large inlet on the east side. The streamway is a 4 to 5 m by 1 m canyon passage which can be followed for 700 m past a small oxbow and several inlets. After the oxbow the passage decreases in height to 0.5 m by 4 m wide and can be followed through gravel banks to a final sump, which is estimated to be 500 m from the resurgence at St Brendan's Well (Survey, Figure 3).

## WESTERN POULACAPPLE

## CULLAUN ONE (C1)

Grid Reference: Clare 5, E18.2, N16.1  
M 1811 0240

Td. Cullaun

Length 3100 m

The length given in Boycott and Wilson (1986) is incorrect and should read 2260 m. However, a further extension has also been made (Bunce, 1991b & 1995c). A low crawl on the left hand side of the main streamway 8 m upstream from the third pitch leads to a free-climbable 4 m pitch back to the stream, which can be followed through a low crawl to a small decorated chamber where the stream disappears. The passage continues as a bedding plane for 210 m to a boulder choke. A squeeze up at this point enters the 1986 extension to Gaffer's Gulch (Bunce, 1989) (Survey, Figure 4).

## EASTERN POULACAPPLE

## CROAGH SOUTH SINK

Grid Reference: Clare 5, E33.3, N6.9  
M 1970 0142

Td. Croagh South

A narrow canyon passage 1 m by 0.5 m has been entered at the sink and followed for 20 m to a tight bend and a flowstone obstruction (Fogg, 1996).

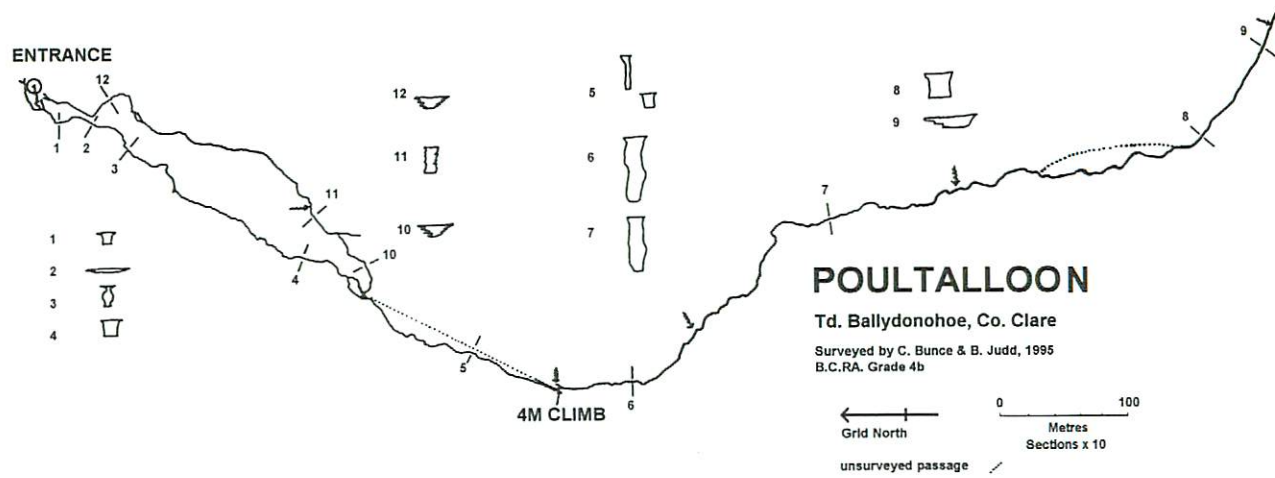
## POULACAPPLE POT (H0)

Grid Reference: Clare 5, E24.1, N32.4  
M 1873 0411

Td. Poulacapple

The grid reference given in Self (1981) is incorrect (Irish Diaries, 1994).





**Figure 3: Survey of Poutalloon.**  
Survey by C. Bunce.

## KNOCKAVOARHEEN RIDGE

## POLLBALLYGOONAUN (G11)

Grid Reference: Clare 9, E10.9, N6.7

R 1725 9499

Td Ballygoonaun

The grid reference given in Self (1981) is incorrect (Irish Diaries, 1992).

## NORTH CENTRAL BURREN

## AILLWEE CAVE

Alternative Name: McGann's Cave

Grid Reference: Clare 5, E68.3, N39.6

R 2340 0487

Td. Ballycahill

An artificial tunnel, Marine Blast Tunnel, has been dug between the Highway and St Brigid's Cavern and was opened in 1992 to provide a round trip to ease congestion in the Show Cave. The tunnel follows a small natural passage for much of its length, and has intersected a 5 m high aven with a waterfall. Several small passages lead off. Starting from the St. Brigids/St. Patricks series junction, heading east along the tunnel, the side passages are as follows:

- 1 South side: a small passage ending in a duck with 6 cm airspace.
- 2 North side: a 7 m long passage parallel to the tunnel wall chokes with sand.
- 3 South side: a 1.5 m high canyon passage meanders for 45 m to a tight corner, trending west. The passage continues and draughts.
- 4 The wall of this canyon forms the left wall of the tunnel for 15 m, then runs parallel to the tunnel, to rejoin after 10 m.
- 5 A tube on south side can be followed for 7 m to a junction. Left is a choked connection back to the tunnel, right becomes too tight after 6 m (Irish Diaries, 1992).

A detailed study of the newly exposed sediments and those in the rest of the cave has been carried out (O'Connor, 1995).

## NORTH-EASTERN BURREN

## COSKEAM CAVE

Alternative Name: Glenallia Cave

Grid Reference: Clare 6, E47.5, N13.7

M 3096 0200

Td. Coskeam

Length 30 m

It is probable that this is the cave referred to by Foot (1863) as Glenallia Cave. It is described as being 8 miles north north east of Vigo Cave, Glenallia is the valley between Doomore and Doonbeg, and this is the only sizeable cave known in the area. It was certainly known in 1862 as it is marked "Cave" on the 1916 1:10560 series map. This area was surveyed in 1840, revised 1913 and published in 1916. Foot's description is as follows:

"The horse-shoe bat (*R. hipposideros*). To the communications already made by Dr Kinahan and myself, I will merely add, that after searching almost every known cave, I had come to the conclusion that the wild Burren district was unfrequented by these animals. I must observe, however, that almost all the caves there are the mouths of subterranean water courses, discharging often great floods in wet weather, especially during winter, and consequently not at all suited for the hibernation of bats. Not long ago, I was informed that bats are seen flying about in the summer evenings in the most exposed and unfrequented parts of this Irish desert. The puzzle was, where did they hibernate? I came upon a cave, January 23, 1862, the entrance of which is a conical hollow, about ten feet deep, in the flat surface of the rock, all festooned with ivy, ferns, mosses, mar-chantia, &c. Arrived at the bottom of this, I perceived a small horizontal passage; and lighting my candle (which I seldom go without at this time of the year), I entered, and, with little difficulty, found myself in a spacious chamber, hung with fine stalactites, and with still finer stalagmites rising from the floor. It was tolerably dry, and I soon perceived the droppings of bats in abundance. After a long search in every nook and corner, I at last found one specimen, a male, of our old friend, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. There were also numerous spiders and moths. This cave is eight miles north of Vigo cave, the extreme point in this direction in which we obtained this bat last year. A few days subsequently, I got another male in Glencrawne cave, near Castletown. This extends its range considerably, strengthening the probability of what I remarked as to its being the bat of Clare."

#### GLEN OF CLAB CAVE

Grid Reference: Clare 6, E37.7, N15.5  
M 2992 0219

Td. Clab

A small cave exists on the north side of the Glen of Clab, 300 m north west of the farm. It is formed by two intersecting rifts, 1 m by 2 m deep, choked with boulders (Irish Diaries, 1977).

#### POLLNALUCHNACRUA

Alternative name: Cave of the Hard Mouse  
Grid Reference: Clare 3, E35.4, N 38.1  
M 2977 1098

Td. Rossalia

Length 15 m. Altitude 125 m

The cave is situated on the slopes of Abbey Hill, off the green road from Bell Harbour to Corker Pass. The entrance is in a tree filled depression, just east of the townland boundary. A 3 m wide entrance leads to a squeeze down over boulders into a chamber 2 m long by 1 m wide. A crawl at floor level leads through a tighter squeeze over boulders up into a circular chamber 0.5 m high by 3 m wide, well decorated with moonmilk and stal (Jones, 1983 & Irish Diaries, 1996).

#### POULBAUN CAVE

Grid Reference: Clare 6 E77.6, N38.0  
M 3414 0457

Td. Keelhillia

Length 2 m

A depression, Poulbaun, to the west of the road from Glencolumkille to Cappaghmore, ends in a cliff with a 2 m wide phreatic tube at the south end, which is choked with boulders at a depth of 2 m (Christian, 1995).



# CULLAUN ONE

Co. CLARE  
Extensions  
1986 & 1991

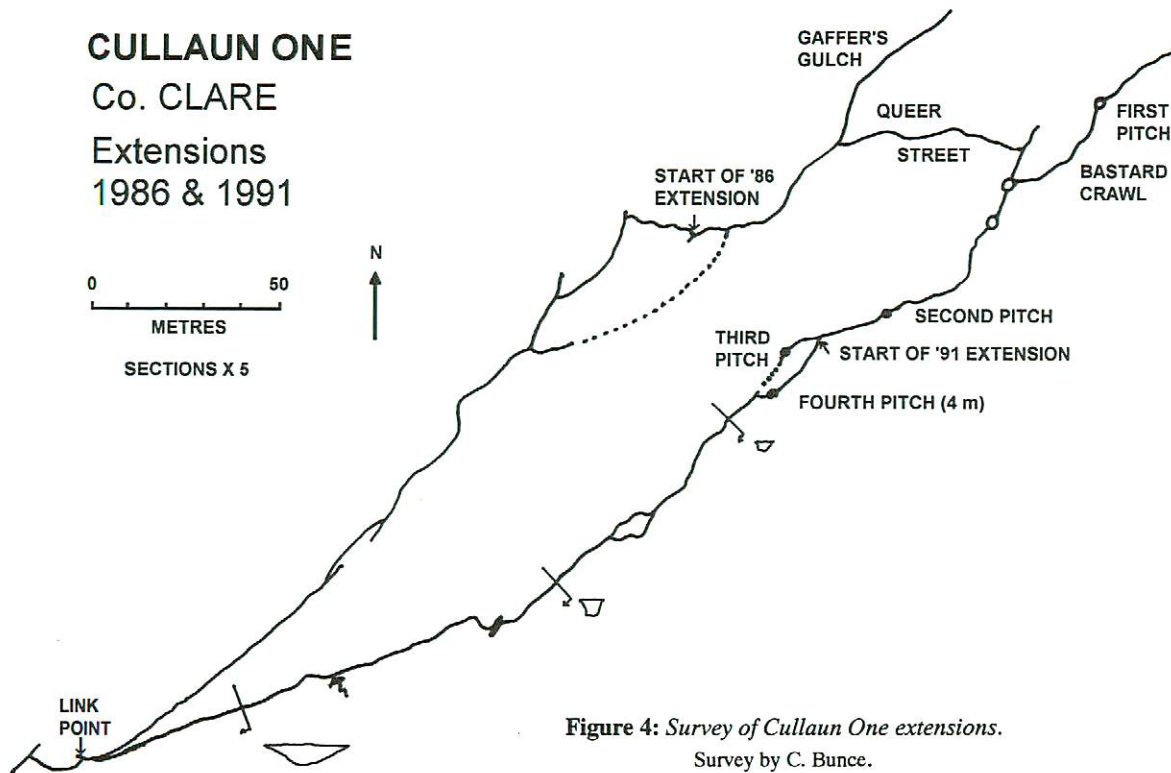


Figure 4: Survey of Cullaun One extensions.  
Survey by C. Bunce.

## SOUTH CENTRAL BURREN

## CAVE OF THE WILD HORSES (K1)

Alternative names: Kilcorney 1, Poll Cíl Cornaidh

Grid Reference: Clare 9, E57.7, N47.7  
R 2220 9933

Td. Kilcorney

An alternative route down the main pitch has been noted. A short traverse over the head of the pitch leads to a more vertical pitch (Fogg, 1994). Beyond the pitch the traverse leads to a 4 m long passage to a second pitch which divides into two parallel shafts at 4 m. One shaft rejoins the main pitch, the second leads into the Lower Main Series after 12 m.

The University of Limerick Caving Group have dug in a swallet in the depression about 100 m from the entrance, entering boulder filled passage which appears to be leading towards the Lower Eastern Series (Butler, 1995).

## SOUTH-EASTERN BURREN

## GORTLECKA CAVE

Grid Reference: Clare 10, E56.5, N3.8  
R 3182 9456

Td. Gortlecka

Length 123 m Altitude 33 m

This cave is located near Mullaghmore, just outside the boundary of the Burren National Park. The entrance is at the base of the western side of a trench, 300 m south east of Lough Gealain. It consists of a single passage 1 m square, running SW-NE parallel to the trench. It is a phreatic tube with some vadose modification and roof collapse. There is a lot of moonmilk and some redissolving calcite. The cave is periodically flooded as it is only 3 m above the average height of the Lough (Drew, 1995).

## SEVEN STREAMS OF TEESKAGH

Grid Reference: Clare 10, E25.3, N18.6  
R 2853 9612

Td. Teeskagh

Length 75 m

The cave at the stream sink has been surveyed (Bunce, 1991a). No further progress has been made, owing to the loose nature of the boulders.

## FERGUS RIVER AND COROFIN AREA

## BADGER HOLE

Grid Reference: Clare 17, E2.2, N29.7  
R 2600 9089

Td. Crossard

Length 3m

A phreatic tube on same level as Vigo cave (Irish Diaries, 1976).

## MOYREE RIVER AREA

## POULNACALLY

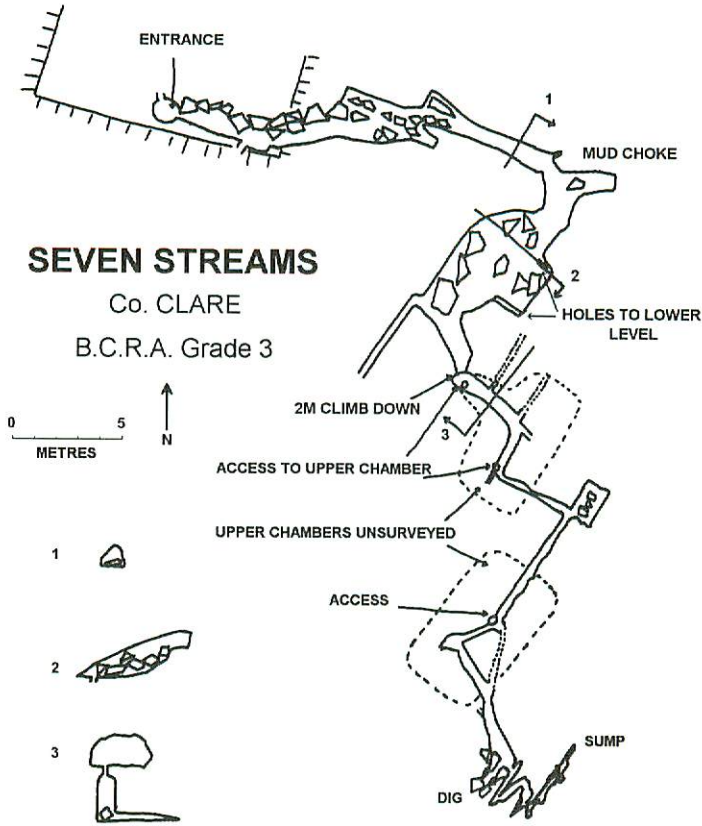
Alternative Names; Poulnacapple, Moyree River Rising

Grid Reference: Clare 18, E5.6, N9.6  
R 360 887

Td. Rathvergin

Length 166m

The sump has been dived for 160 m, in large passage. The passage continues (Kelly, 1995).



**Figure 5:** *Survey of Seven Streams of Teeskagh*  
By permission of the Speleological Union of Ireland

#### THE ENNIS AREA

##### LOUGH RAHA SINK

Grid Reference: Clare 25, E10.4, N47.1  
R 2678 8633

Td. Rath

The stream from Lough Raha sinks in a passage 0.5 m square, choked with boulders (Irish Diaries, 1990).

##### POWDER HOLE

Grid Reference: Clare 25, E75.3, N29.0  
R 3363 8442

Td. Attyterilla and Ballyharraghan

Altitude 15 m

A 30 m diameter, 10 m deep depression by the side of the road from Ruan to Ennis, has a 10 m section of river at the bottom which rises and sinks in boulders (Irish Diaries, 1990).



## EAST CLARE

## THE TOMEENS

Grid Reference: Clare 27, E12.7, N0.0  
R 466 812

Td. Milltown and Kiltanon

Length 700 m

The cave has been surveyed to B.C.R.A. grade 3 by Self (1993). He also discusses the geomorphology and recent history of the cave.

## KINVARRA-GORT LOWLANDS

The area has been intensively investigated by cave divers (The Dark Shamrock Expeditions 1991 – 1994) with spectacular results, but much remains to be done. The water levels in this area up to 8 km inland change with the tide, although the effect is not as predictable as in the marine caves at Doolin. Slack water may be only 15 minutes, and comes a variable time after high or low water depending on the fresh water flow and the distance from the sea. A positive dye trace has been obtained from Coole Lough to the submarine springs at Kinvarra. A general review of the hydrology of the area has been published (Drew and Daly, 1993).

## THE BRIDGE

Grid Reference: Galway 122, E85.5, N52.0  
M 4479 0587

Td. Coole Demesne

The river from Poldeelin sinks for a distance of 30 m. This site has not yet been dived. (Farr, 1994b p12).

## CAVE IN CARROWKILLEEN

Grid Reference: Galway 113, E8.5, N9.7

Td. Carrowkilleen

The site marked "cave" on the 1:10560 sheet near Pollaloughabo is a 10 m by 3 m rift, artificially filled with cobbles to prevent accidents to stock (Irish Diaries, 1992).

## COOLE CAVE

Grid Reference: Galway 122, E87.0, N48.5  
M 4495 0559

Td. Coole Demesne

The Main Gallery Extension sump has been re-dived (Wade, 1991). The sump below the choked rift proved to be an oxbow to the main sump.

Sump 3 has been re-dived (Farr 1994a, p 36 - 37) to a tight slot after 30 m, at 9 m depth. No other way on was found underwater, but a 1 m diameter dry phreatic tube was noted 8 m up in the roof in Coole 3, very similar to the passage in Coole 2. Access to this would be very difficult, especially as the air in the chamber is high in CO<sub>2</sub>.

## COOLE RIVER MAIN RISING 2

Grid Reference: Galway 122, E81.5, N53.5  
M 4434 0619

Td. Coole Demesne

This is the main rising of the Coole River before it flows into Coole Lough. It has not been dived (Farr 1994b p12).

**MORAN'S CAVE**

Grid reference: Galway 113, E30.0, N7.0  
M 3894 0762

Td. Cahercon

Length 1160 m

The grid reference and description given in Self (1981) are incorrect. The entrance is very difficult to locate without local help. An enlarged joint leads down a stepped drop of 10 metres into a totally unsupported 60 m by 80 m bedding cave 2 m high, which leads to a large lake and water-filled rift, both influenced by the tide.

The lake nearest the entrance is the downstream sump and leads into a massive boulder collapse area "The Bastille". Several dives in 1992 and 1993 penetrated the choke, which was passed in August 1994 after 40 m to enter open passage which remained at 10 m depth for 100 m and then gradually deepened. The right hand wall was rarely seen. The second dive reached 480 m from base, at 20 m depth and the passage continues (Farr, 1995, p 1 - 3, 9).

Upstream has been dived in a very large passage with a strong current for 375 m at a maximum depth of 20 m by The Dark Shamrock expedition in 1992 (Farr, 1993a). In 1994 upstream was dived for a length of 600 m at a depth of 20 m. The passage width varies from 10 m to 20 m and carries a large volume of water, with an unpredictable tidal flow. The cave runs from Southeast, upstream, to Northwest, downstream (Farr, 1995 p 1 - 3, 9).

**POLLALEEN**

Grid Reference: Galway 123, E24.4, N59.1  
M 4803 0661

Td. Newhall

Pollaleen is the north east sink of the Boleyneendorrish River which normally takes approximately 30% of the flow, although it may act as a rising under some water conditions. The sink has been investigated under low water conditions (Farr, 1991b p26) and 5 m of rift passage with a sump at the bottom of a 4 m drop has been entered.

**POLLALOUGHABO**

Grid Reference: Galway 113, E10.4, N10.2  
M 3686 0801

Td. Carrowkillen

Length (including Pollbehan) 1500 m.

Pollaloughabo is a large collapse with a bedding chamber entrance 10 m wide and 8 m high at the east end, much frequented by cows. There is a smaller entrance to water at the west end. The entrance pool has been walled at the back to allow cattle to drink without getting into deep water. This cave contains large downstream and upstream sumps which rise and fall with the tide.

The passage to the upstream sump is a bedding plane 20 m wide by 7 m high. This was dived for 50 m at a maximum depth of 15 m in 1991. It was extended to 495 m in 1992 (Farr, 1993b, p 31 - 33). The way on becomes lost in a boulder choke with strong flow at 18 m depth; the maximum depth of the sump is 22 m. This point is about 100 m north east of Skelphooey. The flow upstream appears to be stronger than downstream.

The downstream sump is reached from the smaller entrance and was dived in very large passage for 460 m by the Dark Shamrock Expedition in 1991. The maximum depth is 15m and the passage is trending west (Farr, 1991b p 30). In 1992 this sump was extended and connected to Pollbehan by a through dive of 855 m (Farr, 1993b p 30). This passage has been named the Dark Shamrock Traverse.

**POLLANOWEEN**

Grid Reference: Galway 123, E19.2, N54.7  
M 4749 0615

Td. Newhall

This sink is blocked by trees.

**POLL A WEE**

Alternative name: Quinn's Cave

Grid Reference: Galway 112, E91.2, N12.1

M 3568 0823

Td. Moy

Poll a Wee is the local name for this site which was previously called after the farmer who led cavers to the site. It has been dived in very low water conditions (Geh, 1991), but no way on found. A dry bedding plane to the right of the entrance was dug for 5 m to two impassable rifts and a pool too small to dive. A further rift to the right was dug for 3 m to an impassable bend.

**POLLBEHAN**

Alternative name: Pollbeaghy

Grid Reference: Galway 113, E3.9, N12.0

M 3617 0823

Td. Carrowkilleen

Length (including Pollaloughabo) 1500 m.

This large depression has been dived by the Dark Shamrock Expedition in 1991. A tight rift in the entrance pool drops into a huge tunnel at least 10 m diameter, which was followed east for 357 m at an average depth of 10 m, past a high rift airbell and a small hole in the floor, the Black Hole. At the end the direction of the flow changes to downstream again. Downstream, west, from the entrance was dived for 57 m in an equally large passage, which becomes too low (Farr, 1991b p 31 - 32). The 1992 expedition connected this cave with Pollaloughabo at the 300 m point via the Dark Shamrock Traverse (see Pollaloughabo for description).

**POLLDALAGHA**

Grid Reference: Galway 122, E48.0, N53.2

M 4181 0617

Td Caherglassaun and Shigaunagh

A pool to the west of Caherglassaun Lough was dived to a depth of 11.5 m (Farr, 1994b p 5).

**POLLDEELIN**

Grid Reference: Galway 122, E89.5, N49.0

M 4518 0564

Td. Coole Demesne

Length Altitude 15 m

Polldeelin has been dived and connected with the nearby Polldeelin Spring after 80 metres. The way on upstream is blocked by flood debris at a depth of 8 m (Farr, 1995 p 2 - 3 & 10).

**POLLDEELIN SPRING**

Alternative Name: Polldeelin Main Rising, Coole River Main Rising

Grid Reference: Galway 122, E89.0, N49.9

M 4510 0567

Td. Coole Demesne

This is the main rising for the Coole River and is likely to be the resurgence for water from Polltoophill and the Boleyneendorrish Sinks. It has been dived for 200 m in a large clean-washed tunnel to a maximum depth of 33 m (Farr 1995, p 2 - 3, 10). The passage to Polldeelin is passed 10 m from the entrance on the north side.

**POLLHOISH**

Grid Reference: Galway 113, E22.8, N27.8

M 3815 0982

Td. Cartron

This site was the main well for the town of Kinvarra until the early 1980's. An underwater boulder slope leads to a chamber at a depth of 22 m and 40 m from the entrance. A narrow rift in the roof has been followed for 50 m but no way on was found (Farr, 1994b p 2 - 3, 7).



**POLLNADIRK**

Alternative names: Macnamara's Cave, Pollnadeargh

Grid Reference: Galway 113, E41.4, N0.00  
M 4005 0693

Td. Ballykilladea

Length 40 m

The description of the entrance given in Self (1981) is incorrect. It is a large elliptical depression, 30 m by 10 m, and 15 m deep. There is a cliff at one end but it can be entered by an easy climb down at the south end. The choke at the end of the cave has been dug to enter 30 m of cave passage, ending in a breakdown chamber (Farr, 1993b p 31).

**POLLNAGEANH**

Alternative names: Pollnaceann, Poulnegan

Grid Reference: Galway 112, E73.8, N23.9  
M 3387 0949

Td. Carrownamadra

This is a depression 60 m long by 12 m wide, with a 30 m long pool at the bottom. It is too full of vegetation to dive (Farr, 1994b p 10). This "chasm", near the Poulnegan mass rock, may have been used to dispose of bodies from a Cromwellian massacre (Korff and O'Connell, 1985).

**POLLNAMONA**

Grid Reference: Galway 122, E46.8, N54.2  
M 4168 0626

Td. Shigaunagh

A pool to the west of Caherglassaun Lough was dived to a depth of 9.7m (Farr, 1994b p 5). The depression might in origin have been due to silver mining.

**POLLNAPASTY**

Grid Reference: Galway 122, E52.0, N57.0  
M 4122 0655

Td. Caherglassaun

This impressive depression can be descended with the aid of a hand line at the southern end. A strong flow of water from the north end sinks in a whirlpool on the east side. This has been dived (Farr, 1994b p4 - 5) in strong flow to a boulder choke at 20 m. The whole site is polluted with rubbish.

**POLLTOOPHILL SINKS**

Grid Reference: Main Sink Galway 123, E3.9, N43.7  
M 4592 0490

Grid Reference: Kiltartan Castle Sink Galway 123, E4.7, N41.1  
M 4596 0474

Td. Castletown

This site is the sink of the Castletown or Cannahowna River. The water from Pollduagh Cave flows through Gort and Ballynamonian Lough to sink at two sites, one directly beneath the walls of Kiltartan Castle, and the main sink at Polltoophil proper. (Farr, 1995 p 3 - 4) The main sink has been dived to a depth of 16 m without a conclusion (N. Johnson, *pers. comm.*) The water is believed to resurge at Polldeelin.

**RAHEEN HOUSE FLOOD RISING**

Alternative names: Coole Rising North, Main Rising North

Grid reference: Galway 122, E82.0, N57.2  
M 4438 0649

Td. Raheen Demesne

A subsidiary rising flowing into the Coole river.

## SKELPNAHOOEY

Alternative name: The Scalp

Grid Reference: Galway 113, E15.1, N8.8

M 3734 0786

Td. Carrowkilleen

Length 25m

A passage leads to a sump after 20 m under normal water conditions. The site was investigated in drought and found to be solidly choked (Farr, 1991 p32).

## TOM MURRAY'S SINK

Grid Reference: Galway 122, E84.8, N53.0

M 4467 0605

Td. Coole Demesne

This is the sink for the main Coole River after the bridge. It has not been dived (Farr, 1994b p12).

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