

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE

Coolagh River Cave

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Ballynahown, Knockauns Mountain, Blakes Mountain, Cloghaun, Poulmagun

NEAREST TOWN

Lisdoonvarna

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

4, 8

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

112400 201400 = M12400 01400

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

51 **1/2 inch Sheet No.** 14

Outline Site Description

Mature cave system with many subterranean and subaerial karst features.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Carboniferous limestones host a Pleistocene and Holocene cave system

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Dendritic Cave System with several stream sinks / swallow holes, Blind Valley, Active Uvala Coolagh River South B8 / Poulclabagh B10, Doline B11b Poulmagun.

The Coolagh River Cave is a mature cave system with many subterranean and subaerial karst features. It is a dendritic cave system with several stream sinks / swallow holes. The Coolagh River sink is at a karst window, at the end of a blind valley (B7). The Coolagh River Valley, which continues southwards as a normally dry valley within the site, is also one of the major surface features of the Burren. To the south it enters an irregular depression in the limestone. This has active and inactive sinks at several points (B9, B10-Poulclabagh), and is a compound sink, or uvala, distinguished from the karst window in being open to the main limestone outcrop at its southwest end. A classic collapse doline (B11b – Poulmagun) intercepts the Coolagh River stream. The drainage is proven to resurge at Poulisallagh (IGH1-6) on the coast to the west.

Site Importance

The site is of National importance and is proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 1 Karst theme of the GSI's IGH Programme.

Management/promotion issues

Extensive forestry at B7 Polldonough. B10 Pollclabber entrance has been kept blocked by the farmer in the past



Polldonough. Blind valley and Coolagh River sink, with old and new forestry encroaching (G. LI. Jones).

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