

# CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

**NAME OF SITE**

Glencurran Cave

Other names used for site

**TOWNLAND(S)**

Poulaphuca

**NEAREST TOWN**

Kilfenora

**SIX INCH MAP NUMBER**

10

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE**

127380 196330 = R2738 9633

**1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER**

51      1/2 inch Sheet No. 14

**Outline Site Description**

An ancient cave system in the side of a wooded dry valley

**Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

Glencurran Cave is a truncated and largely sediment filled cave, making it potentially an older system than the postglacial origins of many Burren stream caves. No published dating has been done to confirm the age, but some results are awaited from recent work.

**Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

Glencurran Cave is a significant cave with a diversity of interest. It is a challenging cave for recreational speleology, since most of it has been dug to gain access to 700m of passage. It is largely earth filled wide phreatic passage, with short sections of active stream cave. It has considerable geological and spelological potential as the most likely intersection to an undiscovered master cave between Castletown River Sinks in the Carran Enclosed Depression and the risings at Fergus River Cave. The cave entrance is on the side of the Glencurran dry valley which has truncated the cave. Of particular importance is the recently explored archaeological significance (not yet published) with multi period usage of the large entrance passage. It is also reported to be a bat roost.

**Site Importance**

The site is of County Geological Site status under the IGH 1 Karst theme of the GSI's IGH Programme. It also has considerable archaeological importance, with recent excavations showing episodes of activity in the cave from Neolithic to late Medieval times (Marion Dowd – pers. comm., January 2005). It is listed as RMP CL010-054.

**Management/promotion issues**

The cave is well hidden and difficult to find without specialist caving guidebooks or personal knowledge. It is unlikely to be suitable for general public promotion as beyond the walking sized entrance passage it is very restricted and unappealing to a casual visitor.



The map is a detailed topographic representation of a coastal area in Ireland. Key locations include Castle Town, Carrigrohane, and Carrigrohane West. The map features contour lines indicating elevation, with peaks reaching up to 500 feet. A network of roads and paths is shown, along with various geographical features such as hills, valleys, and a large body of water (likely a bay or lake) on the right side. A prominent black circle is drawn on the map, centered near Carrigrohane. The map is oriented with North at the top.