

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE

Vigo Cave

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Nooan

NEAREST TOWN

Corofin

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

17

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

126051 190518 = R26051 90518

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

51

1/2 inch Sheet No.

14

Outline Site Description

Ancient, abandoned vadose cave exposure site.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Drew and Jones (2000) record a minimum age of more than 6000 years for the cave based on calcite dating.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Vigo is a significant cave, approximately 200m long, unrelated to present day topography and containing entrance and deep cave sediments. The cave is unusual as it runs almost in a straight, SSW direction beneath the Namurian Shale cover. Although the precise nature of the cave's formation is obscure it is clear from the evidence above that its origins must be related to a topography very different that of the present day. It has one of the best, undisturbed cave entrance facies in Ireland with considerable potential for fruitful excavation. The complementary interior cave sediments together with the distinctive morphology of the ancient cave make it a valuable karst heritage landform.

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

It is important to negotiate access with the landowner. The cave is probably just within the East Burren Complex SAC 1926.



Abandoned vadose trench largely infilled near the cave entrance (D. Drew).



Inside the cave

[illegible]