

GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ballyglunin Cave
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballyglunin
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Corrofin, Abbey, Monivea
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	58
ITM CO-ORDINATES	545900E 742050N (cave entrance)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET No. 46	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 11, 14

Outline Site Description

A cave consisting of a complex network of passages.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The cave is formed in Carboniferous Limestone, and is post glacial (Holocene) in age, but may have an inherited component of pre-glacial development.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The cave consists of a complex network of passages carrying a water flow which was diverted off the Abbert River. There are the remains of a water powered turbine structure which had been installed in the entrance depression which was probably a natural collapse into the cave. The passages are a complex mix of different heights and widths, some dry and some carrying water.

Although all the cave water is probably ultimately derived from the Abbert River, the river bed losing flow from upstream of the cave, the cave is located at a very shallow depth under the bed of the river and there is very little leakage from the upper into the lower system. There was a reported sinking of the entire river into the cave downstream of the present limits in 1955, leaving a dry river bed from thereon. However, the hydrogeology of this site is complex and deserves further study.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

As an unusual example of a cave directly under a river bed with limited connection, the site deserves recognition as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The site is on very private land and there is no access without landowner permission. It is not a site that is suitable for any general promotion for its karstic geology. In addition, caves are potentially dangerous and fragile environments, and no visit should be considered except in the company of experienced cavers, even if allowed by the owners.



The sinking stream in the entrance collapse of Ballyglunin Cave.



The remains of a turbine structure above the sinking stream entrance to Ballyglunin Cave.

