

MONAGHAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

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|-----------------------------------|---|--|----------|
| NAME OF SITE | Creevy Cave | | |
| Other names used for site | | | |
| IGH THEME | IGH1 Karst | | |
| TOWNLAND(S) | Cloghvalley Lower, Creevy | | |
| NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE | Carrickmacross | | |
| SIX INCH MAP NUMBER | 31 | | |
| ITM CO-ORDINATES | 683633E 806044N (northern entrance, at sinking stream) | | |
| 1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER | 35 | GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. | 8 |

Outline Site Description

This site comprises the Mile River sinks and rising and the intervening Creevy Cave system, the largest in Monaghan.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks are Lower Carboniferous limestone of the Mullaghfin Formation, which outcrops around and northeast of Carrickmacross. The cave system is probably a post-glacial development formed in the last 11,000 years.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The water from Aphuca Cave rises in the vicinity of an old quarry on the bank of the Mile River and joins the river, flowing southeastward for 100 m or so and sinking into a number of points before entering the final sink in a low limestone cliff. There is a distance of about 200m between the final sink and the rising, but cavers have explored and surveyed about 1024 m of cave passage in the intervening distance, as the cave passage meanders greatly and has numerous side branches. The Creevy Rising has a short length of cave accessible in the cliff face where the river reappears, but the whole cave is normally inaccessible except to cave divers other than after some exceptionally dry periods when it may become passable, although further ducks and sumps occur through the cave.

Although they are sealed at the surface, a raised platform and souterrain structure identified by divers within the cave are of some archaeological importance and are now the subject of further research. Pottery shards suggest an open access through the souterrain until the late eighteenth century, although the souterrain itself was probably constructed between the 5th and 12th century AD.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA

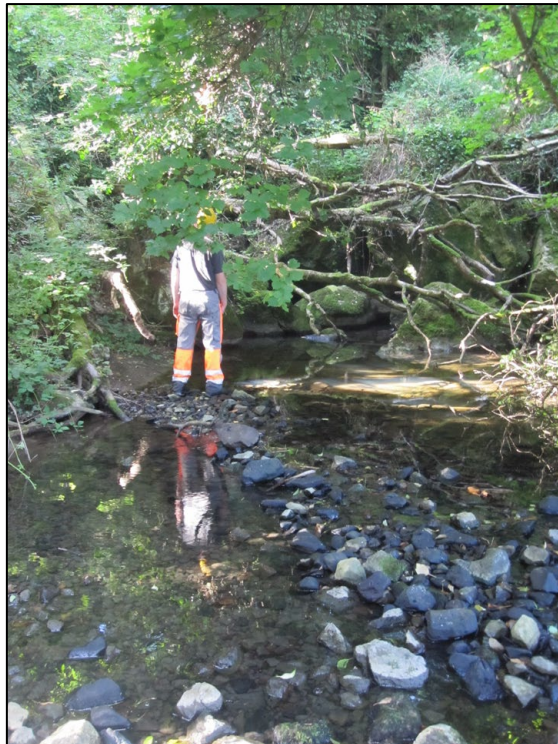
This cave is definitely of County Geological Site importance as the longest cave in County Monaghan, but may be considered for NHA status pending further review of IGH1 Karst sites in a national context.

Management/promotion issues

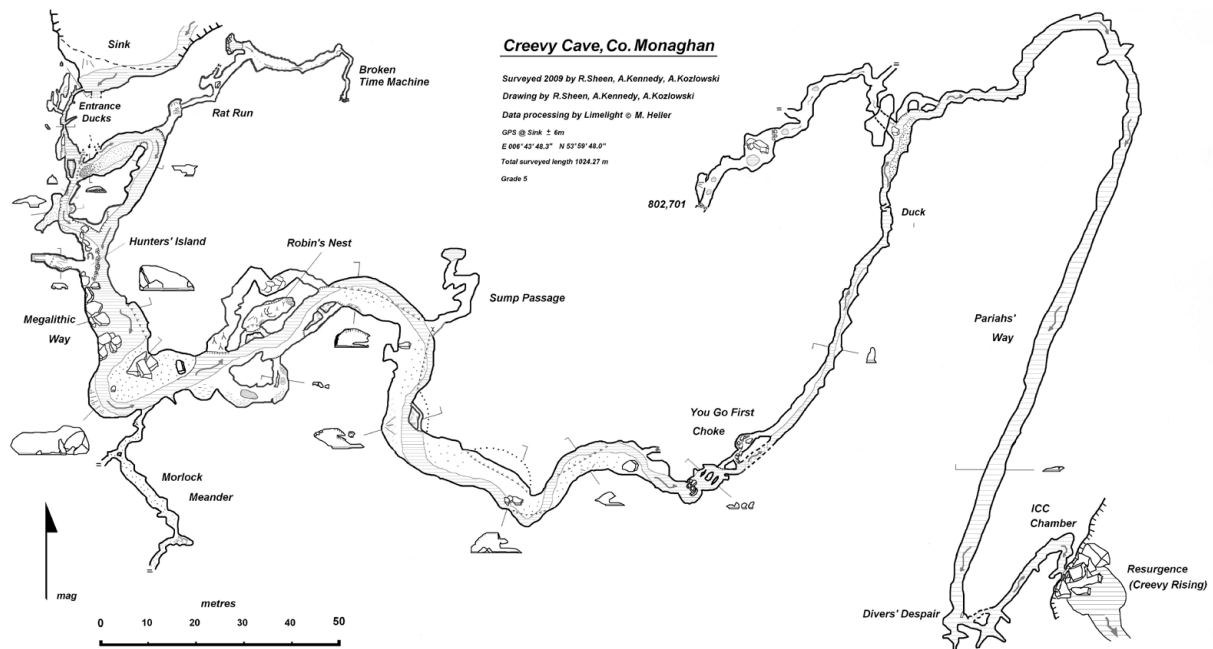
The cave is a dangerous environment, suitable only for experienced and equipped personnel and for this reason should not be promoted. This would also serve to protect the fragile cave environment within, as well as the archaeological site. It is on private land with no easy access.



At the main sink for Creevy Cave.



Left: The main field under which Creevy Cave runs with a doline.
Right: The rising of Creevy Cave is at the base of a high cliff.



Cave surveys reproduced from original by Alisdair Kennedy in Irish Speleology Vol. 18

