

# MONAGHAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	Tiragarvan		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	IGH1 Karst		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Tiragarvan, Lossets		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	Carrickmacross		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	31		
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	681283E 804767N		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	35	<b>GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	8/9

## Outline Site Description

This site comprises a river sink and rising, with an intervening cave system, which itself is segmented by two potholes that provide windows to the surface.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rock in which the cave system is formed is Lower Carboniferous limestone of the Mullaghfin Formation. The cave development is probably all post-glacial, although there may be an inherited component of an earlier development.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

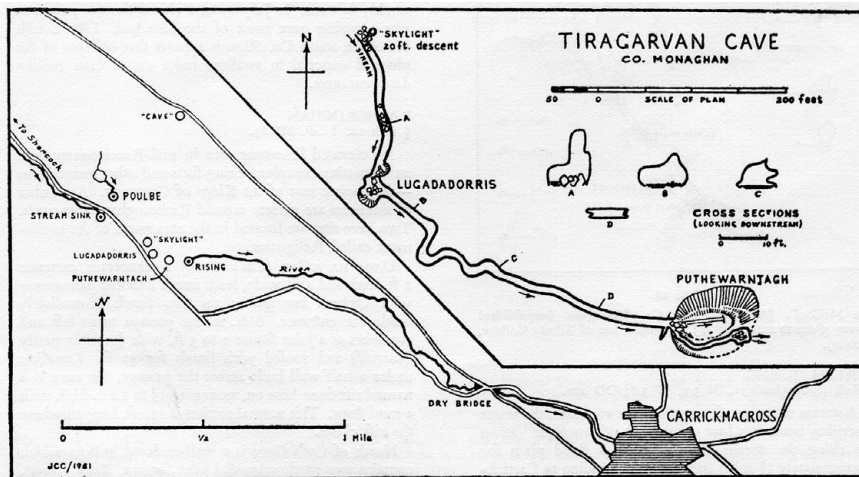
This is a small but complex array of karstic features. The Tiragarvan River sinks in an impenetrable marsh beside the R178 road. Its flow combines with another minor inlet from a sink called Poulbe. The cave itself is accessible through a roadside pothole called Lugadorris or a larger enclosed depression called Puthewarntagh. The water continues a short distance from the latter before rising at Banyanshagh. A further stretch of cave, some 1.6 km downstream at Dry Bridge in the direction of Carrickmacross, is not included within this site.

## Site Importance – County Geological Site

The site is a good example of karstic drainage and cave development, and is relatively uncommon in a County Monaghan context.

## Management/promotion issues

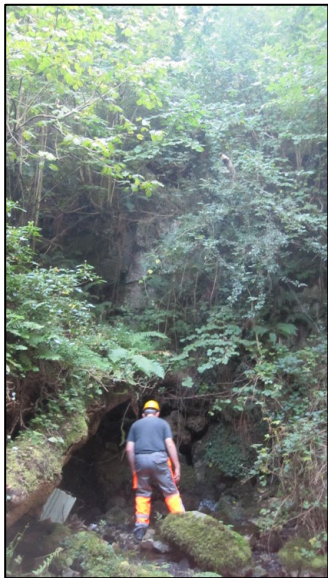
No additional new houses should be allowed on the cave area, especially if no mains sewage facilities are available, as the limestone and cave conduits are very vulnerable to groundwater pollution. The caves should be not be generally promoted, since they are a fragile and potentially dangerous environment, and any visits should only be made by appropriately trained cavers.



A 1965 survey from the Caves of Ireland by J.C. Coleman.

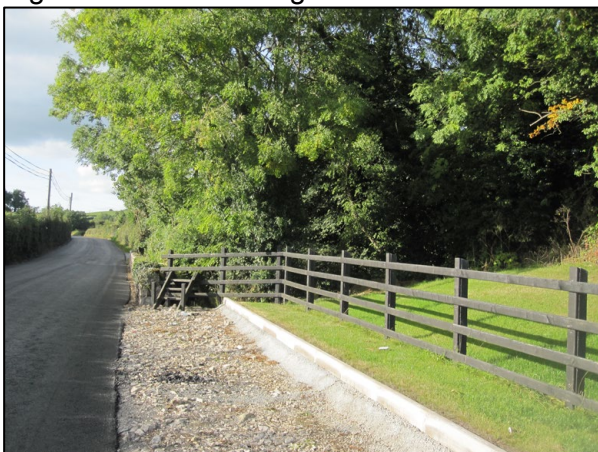


At the bottom of Puthewarntagh enclosed depression.



Left: looking into the Tiragarvan stream emerging into Puthewarntagh.

Right: The unrewarding roadside view into the vertical walled pothole of Lugadorris.



Lugadorris is in the trees to the right of the road but is inaccessible despite a stile.



