

ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Oweynagat		
Other names used for site	Uaigh nag Cat, Cave of the Cats, also possibly the Cave of Crúachu		
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst		
TOWNLAND(S)	Glenballythomas		
NEAREST TOWN	Tulsk		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	22		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	179580 283110		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	33	1/2 inch Sheet No.	12

Outline Site Description

Oweynagat is a linear rift cave entered via a souterrain.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The cave is within Carboniferous limestone, but is likely to be post-glacial (Holocene) in age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Aside from its archaeological and folklore interest, as a cave entered via a souterrain, and with an ogham stone built into the entrance roof, the cave is one of very few in County Roscommon and is in an extensive area of karstic terrain, with no other known caves. At Oweynagat there is 37m length of a straight rift passage, with its roof close to surface. Similar unroofed rifts are found within the same field towards the northwest.

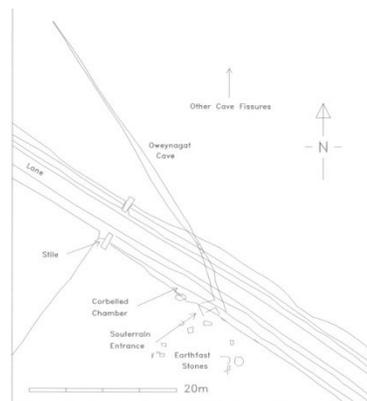
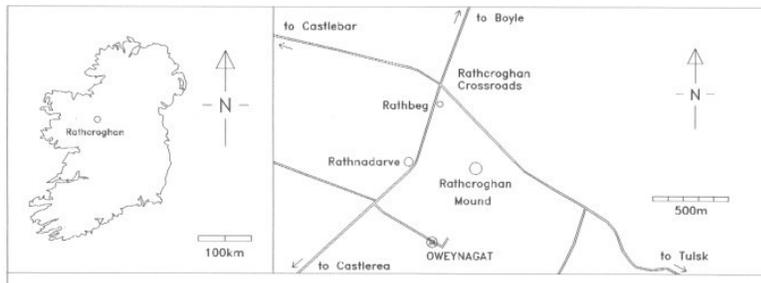
A thin veneer of glacial sediment covers most of the limestone terrain in the plateau area west of Tulsk. There may well be other similar caves nearby, masked by sediment cover. The cave has no active stream.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Although not especially large or otherwise remarkable, the isolated location and rarity of this cave make it important enough to be a County Geological Site. Its place within the rich, undamaged archaeological landscape around Rathcroghan supports the geomorphological interest.

Management/promotion issues

The cave and the souterrain entrance are on private farmland and are not suitable for visiting or promotion other than by permission of the landowner. Although not long or complex, cave environments are both fragile and potentially dangerous and caves should only be visited in the company of experienced cavers. Public access may be available in guided tours on occasion, through the Rathcroghan Visitor Centre in Tulsk (contact 071-9639268 or www.rathcroghan.ie).





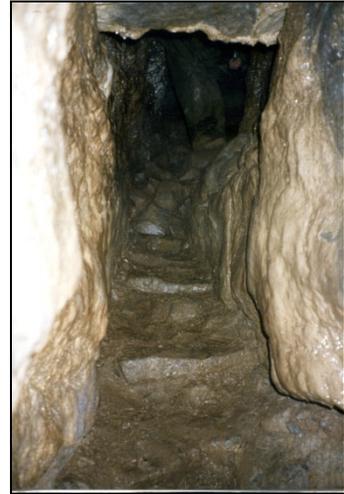
Inside the main rift section of the cave.



Unroofed cave passage near the cave.



Inside the main cave rift passage.



The stepped entrance looking outwards.



Outside the entrance to Oweynagat.



The stepped entrance looking inwards.

