

# WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Ballynahemery Cave</b>		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH1 Karst</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Ballynahemery</b>		
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	<b>Dungarvan</b>		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>Waterford 30</b>		
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>216313 96325</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b>	<b>22</b>

## Outline Site Description

A small cave in a limestone escarpment, the entrance being at the back of a wooded, former quarry adjacent to a farm.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The cave is probably of Holocene (post-glacial) age, developed within Carboniferous Limestone.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

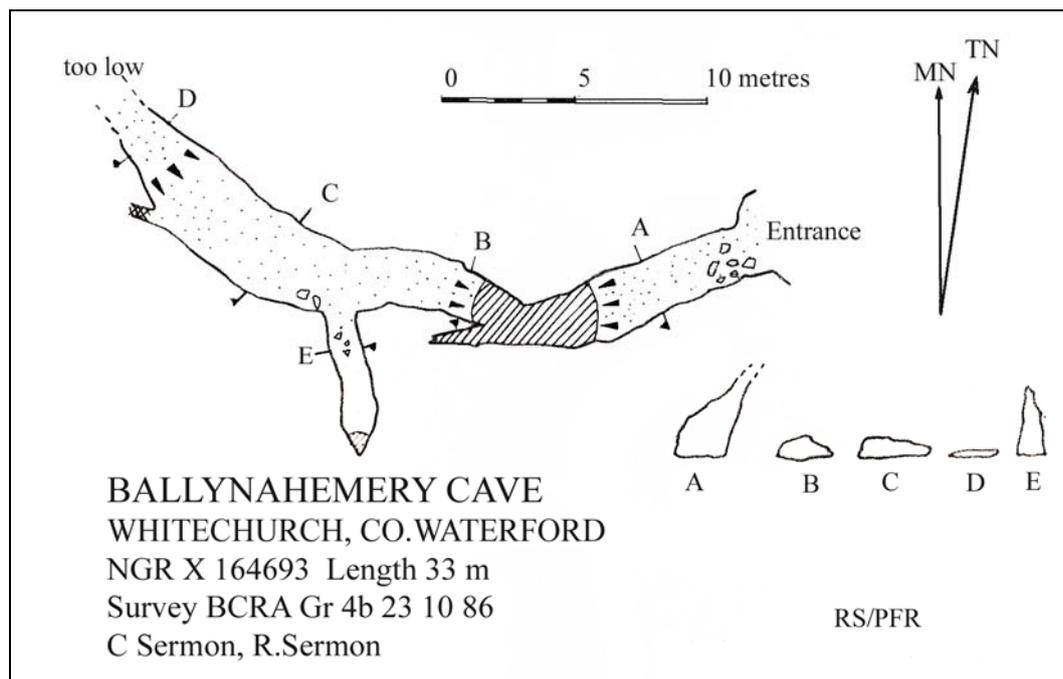
This small cave is only 33m in length, but is apparently developed on a dipping structure of limestone, in contrast to most Dungarvan Syncline caves which are in flat bedded or unbedded limestone. The caves are in Waulsortian limestone which is usually quite massive. Ballynahemery Cave may be developed on dipping beds on the flank of a Waulsortian limestone mudmounds, or perhaps on a fracture plane. Although a trial archaeological excavation yielded nothing, some potential probably still remains.

## Site Importance

This is one of the smallest and least important of Waterford's caves but is still worthy of County Geological Site status.

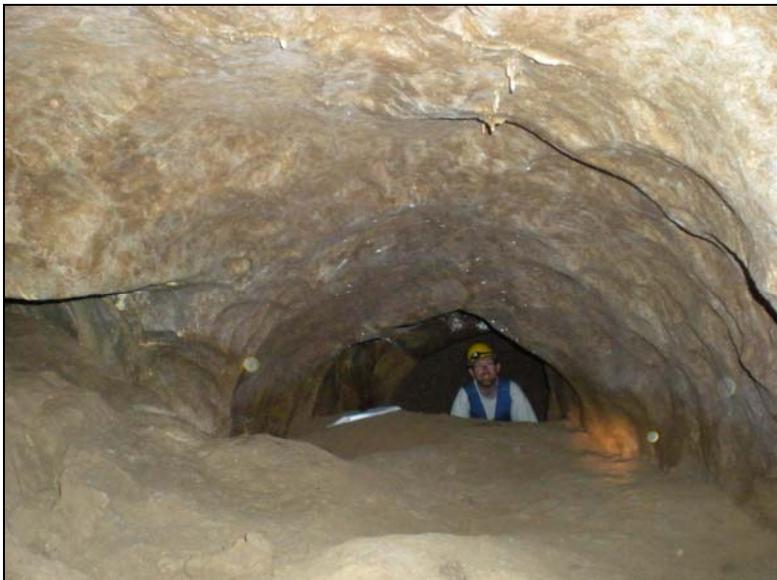
## Management/promotion issues

The cave should be protected from infilling, waste dumping and other disturbance. It is not suitable for general promotion or access.





Ballynahemery Cave entrance.



Ballynahemery Cave passage with scalloped roof and mud fill in the passage.



Ballynahemery Cave showing the steep angle of much of the passage presumably following step bedding in the limestone.

