

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

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|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----|
| NAME OF SITE | Ballynameelagh Caves | | |
| Other names used for site | Well Cave, Through Cave, Tip Cave, Maze Cave | | |
| IGH THEME | IGH1 Karst | | |
| TOWNLAND(S) | Ballynameelagh | | |
| NEAREST TOWN | Dungarvan | | |
| SIX INCH MAP NUMBER | Waterford 30 | | |
| NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE | 216648 94656 | | |
| 1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER | 82 | 1/2 inch Sheet No. | 22 |

Outline Site Description

At Ballynameelagh, one cave remains of 4 which existed in a limestone knoll, adjacent to a farmyard.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The cave is probably Holocene (post-glacial) age but is undated. It is formed within Carboniferous Limestone bedrock.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

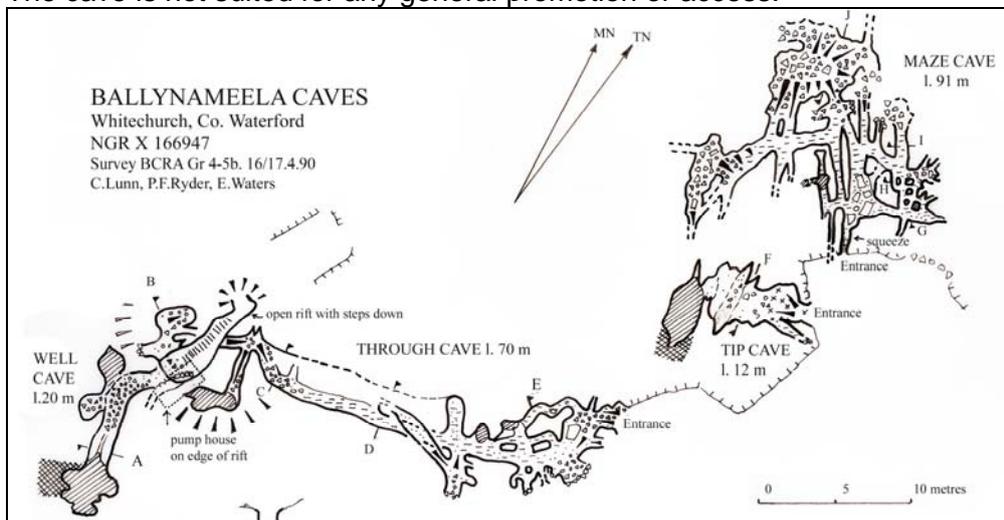
The Well Cave is one of very few that are active in Waterford, in that it seems to have a permanent intersection with the water table. A pumphouse above the deep enclosed depression enclosing the cave entrance shows it was once used as a water supply, although it appears to be redundant. Cave surveys done in 1990 by Moldywarps Speleo Group show there were three other caves (Through Cave, Tip Cave, Maze Cave) but these have been buried with earth and rocks by the landowner in farm works on the top of the knoll between 1990 and 1998. However the 2011 visit indicated further recent landscaping, including the entrance slope to Well Cave.

Site Importance

The cave is probably the least important of the Waterford caves included in the audit as County Geological Sites, but still worthy of recognition. The landowner has buried three adjacent caves under earth and rock fill during farm modifications, which has diminished the importance of the site as a whole.

Management/promotion issues

The entrance area to the still accessible Well Cave has also been modified and graded with a digger. Presumably it is not intended to eliminate it, and it may still be the farm water supply. The cave is not suited for any general promotion or access.





The entrance to Well Cave.



The deep water inside Well Cave.



The landscaped entrance to Well Cave.



The earth fill over Tip Cave and Maze Cave.



The earth fill covering Tip Cave and Maze Cave.

