

# WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

**NAME OF SITE** Bewley Caves  
Other names used for site  
**IGH THEME** IGH1 Karst  
**TOWNLAND(S)** Bewley  
**NEAREST TOWN** Cappoquin  
**SIX INCH MAP NUMBER** Waterford 29  
**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE** Main large cave is at 212756 94953  
Bewley Caves West cave entrances at 212574 95029, 212577 95030, 212587 95032 and 212564 94994  
**1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER** 82                      **1/2 inch Sheet No.** 22

## Outline Site Description

Bewley Caves comprise several small caves in low limestone cliffs, alongside the Finisk River.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The caves are probably early Holocene (post-glacial) but may have begun forming during the Quaternary: however the caves are undated. The rock in which they have formed is Carboniferous Limestone.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

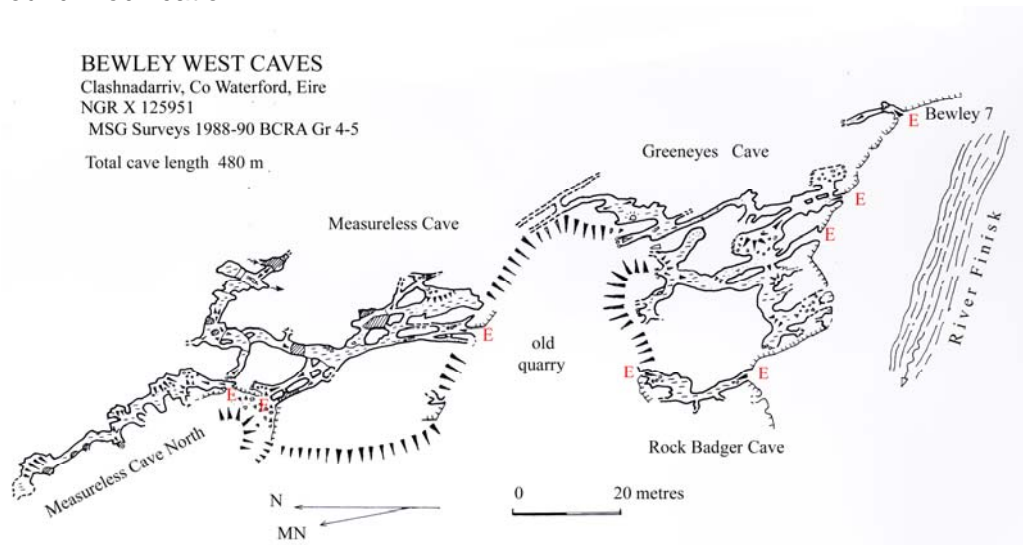
A series of modest caves with a total passage length of 480m have been surveyed in low limestone cliffs adjacent to the Finisk River. Some have been broken into by quarrying activity, giving a window into the karstic development of caves in the Dungarvan syncline. Most cave development has taken place in the more distant past and only minor fragments of passage intersect present day water table. The caves are essentially inactive remnants of groundwater solution over the last 10,000 years.

## Site Importance

Individually the caves are all small and not of major significance but, as a complex, they are worthy of County Geological Site status. It is also part of Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC002170.

## Management/promotion issues

These caves are seldom visited by sport cavers and are on private farmland, with relatively low risk of disturbance, but should be protected from quarry filling, entrance blockage and ground modification.

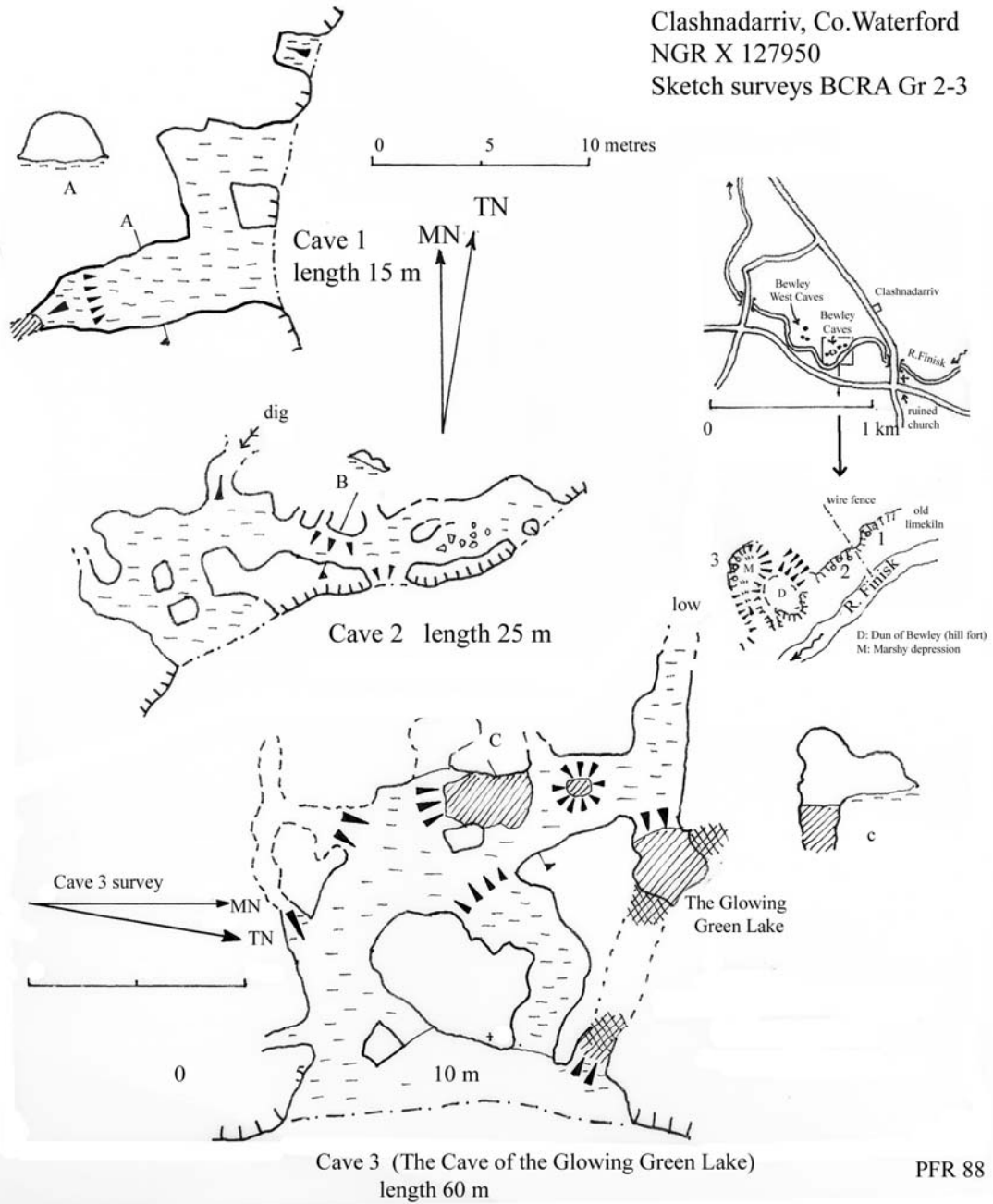


# BEWLEY CAVES

Clashnadarriv, Co. Waterford

NGR X 127950

Sketch surveys BCRA Gr 2-3



Cave 3 (The Cave of the Glowing Green Lake)  
length 60 m



Many Bewley West cave entrances are very small. Bewley East caves are hidden in vegetation.



Entrances to Cave 3 (the Cave of the glowing green lake) in a wooded pit.



Bewley West old quarry with many small entrances.



Cave 3 shows phreatic karstification.



