

# WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Carrigmurrish Cave</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH 1 Karst</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Farrenbullen</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	<b>Dungarvan</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>Waterford 30</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>216900 95666</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**

Carrigmurrish is a cave system in a densely wooded hill.

## **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

The cave is undated and probably formed in the Quaternary or early Holocene (post-glacial) period.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The cave is Waterford's longest, with 460m of surveyed passage. It is a complex system, but is now inactive and largely a dry cave. The entrance is a deep depression on the top of a densely wooded knoll, with a wall around the hole. Large gallery passages 5-10m in width extend in most directions from the entrance depression. No known archaeological interest exists in the cave, although a rath type enclosure is reported around the hilltop. In 1988 the cavers surveying the cave found an extension of higher level passages on the northern side.

## **Site Importance**

It is one of the most important of Waterford's relict cave systems. It is of County Geological Site importance.

## **Management/promotion issues**

The cave is protected by dense hazel and scrub woodland and is on private farmland. It is unsuitable for general promotion or access and is seldom visited by cavers. It provides a wildlife refuge and should be protected from disturbance or damage by any new activity.



The wooded knoll in which Carrigmurrish Cave is situated.



Robbie Meehan at the top of the entrance collapse.



Matthew Parkes in one of the passages in the bottom of the entrance collapse.



