

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Kilgreany Cave		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst		
TOWNLAND(S)	Kilgreany		
NEAREST TOWN	Dungarvan		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 30		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	217612 94376		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	82	1/2 inch Sheet No.	22

Outline Site Description

A relict (inactive) cave intersected by a disused quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The cave is formed within Carboniferous limestone rock. It probably began forming in an interglacial period during the Quaternary (i.e. during the last 1.6 million years) and may have continued forming during the early part of the Holocene (post-glacial) period.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

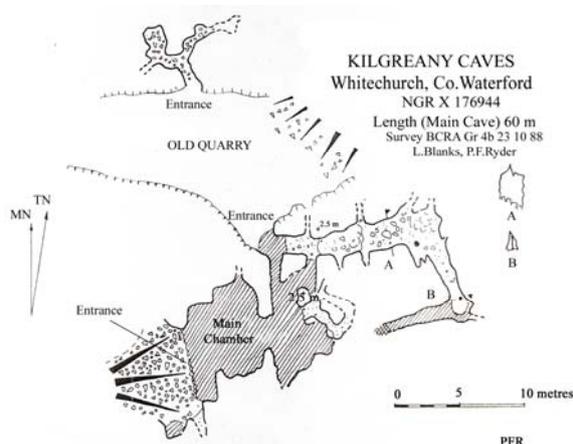
Kilgreany Cave probably has more archaeological significance than geological but is worth including as a County Geological Site for its geological importance as one of the better known of the Dungarvan karst relict caves. The bottom of the main chamber clearly intersects the water table at wetter periods but this may have been dry before excavations in 1928 and 1934. Human remains were found associated with animal bones from the Ice Age, generating considerable excitement about their co-existence, until it was realized that fluctuations in the cave water table had disturbed the stratification and mixed different age deposits together. A second small cave of 10m length is included in the site. It is found on the opposite side of the old quarry, which has the northern entrances of today to Kilgreany Cave itself.

Site Importance

The site is of County Geological Site importance.

Management/promotion issues

The cave is well hidden away in a wooded old quarry beside a farmyard and is not under any obvious threat. The actively working modern quarry of John A. Wood (Cappagh Quarry) is relatively close although some 20-30m of field separates the quarry berm from Kilgreany Cave. If the present landowners sold land for quarrying it could threaten the site, although obviously subject to planning permission and other constraints. Whilst of some general interest, this cave location on private farmland is not suitable for general promotion by the Heritage Officer, and potential safety issues compound against raising awareness of it.





Kilgreany Cave is in an old quarry within the wood.



Some calcite deposits called "cave pearls".



Kilgreany Cave: the old quarry in the wood.



Kilgreany Cave: a calcite column.



Kilgreany Cave: main entrance slope.

