

Personal Log

1st January Souterrain CLO01004; Teergonean Solo

Cloud 75%; Wind WNW, F2: Rain Gauge 6mm: Visibility <20Nm. Ground wet: The Plan: continue develop souterrain construction theory. CLO08-001004 is within a square enclosure; a cashel; SMR, CLO08-001003, ITM 506840 x 698314. Its primary construction method seemingly obvious; a clint, or clints removed to create a trench among adjacent bedrock. Or, the builders utilized a natural wide gryke. Though unlikely, considering the souterrain passage width. Searched north and south to locate if such “workable” clints existed; found same along 016° / 019° Magnetic bearing from the souterrain passage. Two narrow clints, extend seventy metres north and south of the enclosure. The western clint measured as 0.4m wide, the eastern 0.3m wide. The grykes between vary from 0.09m to 0.15m. Maximum gryke depth measured was 1.3m; this coincides with the present height of the souterrain passage; allowing for the rubble covering the floor; present height a metre, width 0.95m. Prior to removal, breaking the limestone away from its footing below, may have involved leverage, or potentially, firesetting.

A cubic metre of Limestone weighs close to two and a half metric tonnes. Removing a one metre length of either clint required handling between 0.35 or 0.45 of a tonne.

This not uncommon geological feature would be a determining factor choosing an enclosures final location. The preparation for a souterrain implies a deep concern for refuge and welfare of the settlements non-combatants when threatened by hostile action. Such fears would require this form of souterrain to be constructed in concert with the enclosure.



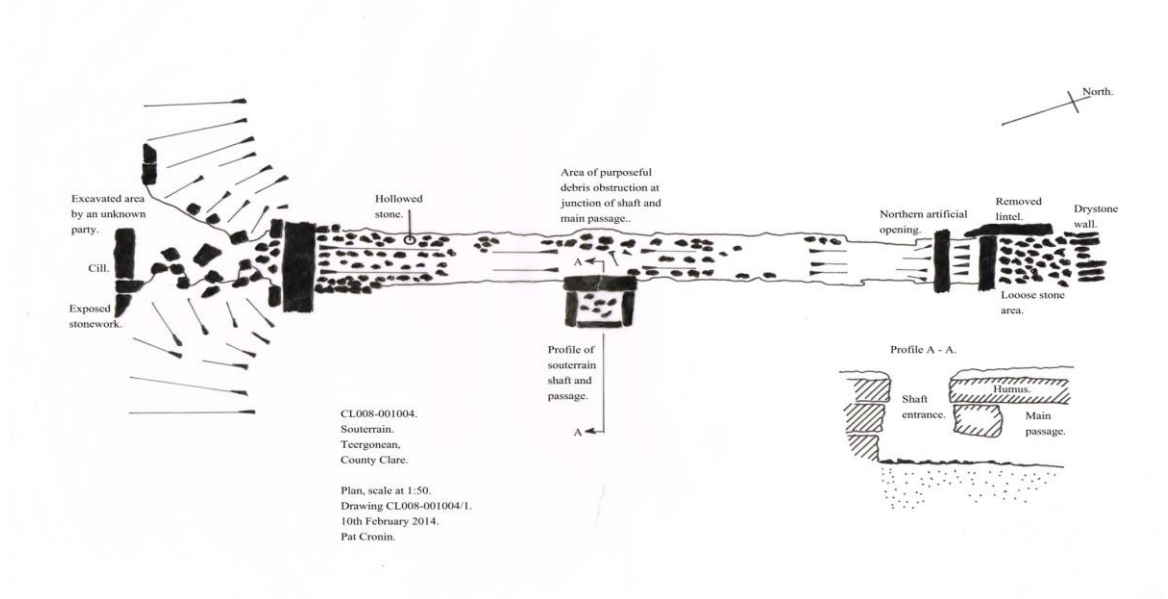
Reference, CLO08-001004 1st Jan23 (15)

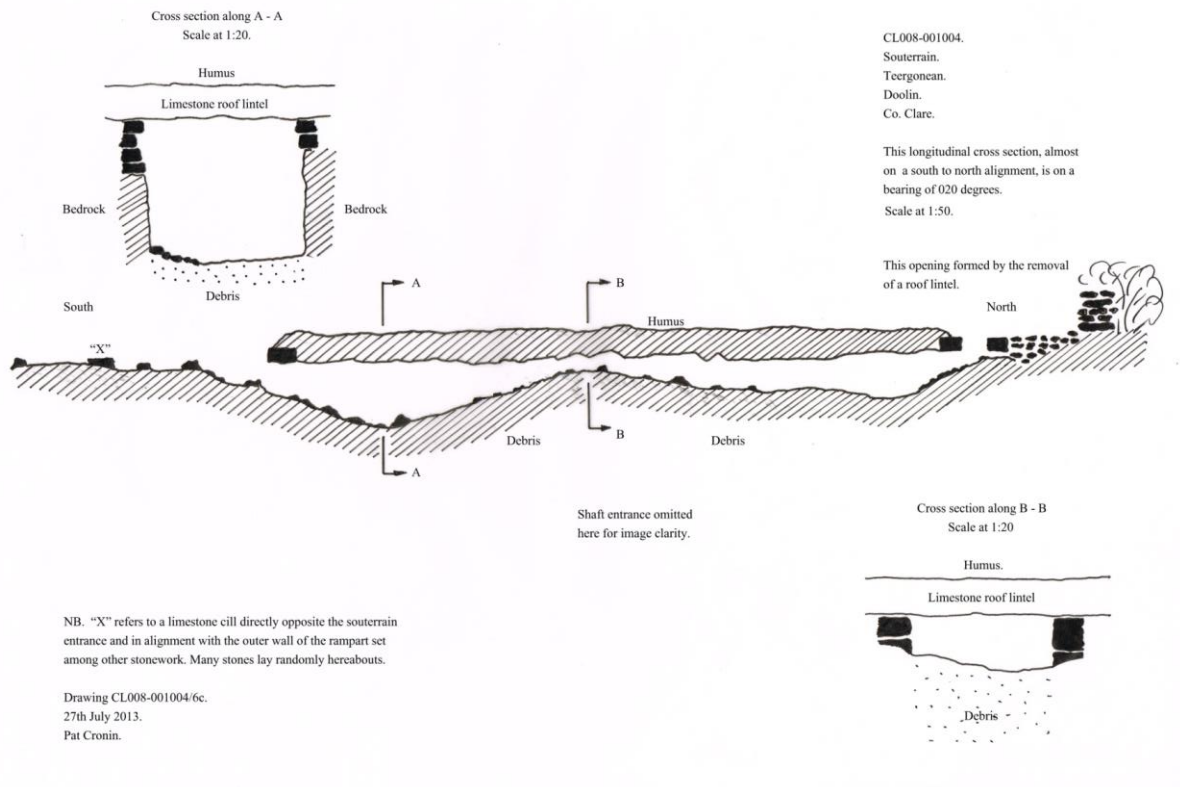
View NNE, location, some twenty metres beyond the northern rampart. Showing the two clints which were removed to create the souterrain trench; ranging rod marked as 0.1m sections



Ref No. CL008-001004 1Jan23 (14)

View ENE, toward the end of the boreen from Killilagh; the two narrow clints within the wider Limestone landscape. The other clints are in excess of three metres wide.





3rd January Poll-an-Ionian

John Browne, Cian Howley

Gave JB a couple of hours ferreting about the 1959 series.

4th January (2020)

Lost Simon Halliday, to Lancaster Pot

4th January St. Breckan's Project F3a, F3b, Owentoberlea Sink.

Matt Randall

Cloud 100%; Wind W, F6/8: Visibility <15Nm: Rain Gauge 11mm: Ground sodden. The Plan: Inspect the water levels. First, to the "Black Bridge", (ITM 514409 x 698365), Lisdoonvarna. Flood level had fallen from an estimated three metres to a metre, perhaps a little less: difficult to assess from the parapet. To F3a, river level just below the summit of the overflow channel.

There was no sign of flow into the rift previously dug rift area. Among the corridor of forestry recent evidence of flood debris equalled the survey datum installed on a tree, adjacent the southern goal posts; flood depth estimated as 1.5 metres.

F3b taking a large stream. To Ballygastell Td, where flood water had gone. Crossed from GF land into field to the north; here a stream was flowing, percolating into an ill-defined sink, which extend over some eight metres. The central sink, (ITM516041 x 700058), in GF's field has a well-defined channel some fifty metres in length, rounding down the average width to three metres and depth to two metres gives a conservative volume of three hundred cubic metres of soil/silt disappearing over the last forty odd years. During a previous visit with EM, he clearly described the channel being shallow enough to run across. This departure of soil likely contributing to the deposition in the F3a area some three kilometres downstream.

2023

To Owentoberlea Sink where there was little evidence of surface flow, what flow was present seemed to dissipate within fifty metres downstream the bridge, (ITM 516137 x 700400). No evidence of sinking water disappearing into Owentoberlea Sink.

8th January St. Breckan's Project

Solo

Cloud 80%: Wind SW, F5/6: Cold: Visibility >25Nm: Rain Gauge 7mm: Ground wet. The Plan: prospect the area ITM 515910 x 699450. This location is central between the N67 and the minor, local road, a kilometre to the south. The pastures are well grazed, and cherished. The recent 38mm rainfall has not appeared to have significantly impacted the normally dry water course beyond the sink at ITM 516000 x 699745 or the one at ITM 515940 x 699715. Beyond these are intermittent springs, some of significance, others of lessor a discharge. Among the relatively flat landscape a shallow, almost vague, water course may be followed across fields of differing ownership. There appears to be a "thin" soil cover to the bedrock, increasing as the route is followed southward. Of interest, is the source of flood water coming from the east, adjacent the minor road; ITM 516000 x 698990.

Permission is granted to investigate a sink close to the N67, plan to commence soon after returning from Panamá; late February.



Normally dry water courses between the N67 and St. Brendan's Well.

10th January

Panamá Cave Project 2023

Stuart (Mac) McManus, James Cobbett, Dig Hastilow, Roger Day

Flight time changed by KLM. Now leaving a day earlier than the others. Departed Doolin 10th Jan, 12:30, to Galway, to Dublin, to Schiphol, to Tocumen, Panamá City.

Arrived 11th January, ≈16:30. Picked up by Seamus Cobbett, taken straight into JC's Explorers Bar; deep, deep joy!

Among the minor sites and areas visited, delighted to find three modest sized caves on the shores of Lago Bayano. One, whose walls are covered with formations and Helictite clusters.

15th February Doolin

Solo

Twenty-six hours after departing James place, arrived home. Retrieved from Galway Coach Station and delivered home by a very nice Jim Warny.

19th February St. Breckan's Project; F3a

Solo

Cloud 100%, base 350ft: Wind W, F4/5: Visibility <500m: Rain Gauge 4mm: Ground wet. The Plan: check status of dug rift. River level beneath bridge 0.5m. Evidence of flow in every sink. The piled boulders from the previous session, now delay lower flow rates, allowing an increased flow into the two sinks against the exposed bedding. Two other sinks have opened upstream and above normal stream level, in the grassy river bank. Each penetrating almost a metre into the bank horizontally. Water clarity, like Gin. The rift previously dug at has taken flow, likewise sink F3b: the errant fencepost now stuck in its opening.

20th February Cullaun II

Solo

Cloud 100%, base 600ft: Wind SW, F4/5: Visibility 2Nm: Rain Gauge 3mm: Ground wet. The Plan: loosen the limbs. Steady trip to Pool Chamber, back via the high level streamway.

23rd February

Lost Dr. Richard Cooke

24th February

1st Anniversary of Russian invasion of the Ukraine



Drainage review of the three sinks to known, close submarine resurgences; doesn't feel right.

3rd March Water tracing Project.

Following two unsuccessful requests for fluorescein, to the surplus held by "scientists" in the Burren, ordered some; promised to arrive Monday 6th March.

3rd March Considine's (South End)

Cheg Chester

11:30. Cloud 90%: Wind NE, F3: Visibility forever: Rain Gauge 0mm: Ground wet: Small stream. The Plan: repair generator. Nice to see the place after the absence. Stripped part of the air filter to replace perished fuel pipe; noted by CC during a recent visit. Ran and tested winch, grand; ready for the work in "Paul's Pot": one last throw at the dig, before closure??

Hours 2 (3375), Southend (2323), Kibbles 0 (6754), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7691

3rd March (2005)

Lost Martin Bishop.

4th March Cullaun II

Julia Thonig

Cloud 100%: Wind NE, F2/3: Visibility 20Nm: Ground wet; Rain gauge omm. The Plan: accommodate visitor from the Swabian Alps. Contacted by JT via Pegasus website details, whilst in Panamá. Picked up JT from the hostel; unsure of abilities, caution chose Cullaun II. Vastly underestimated JT's skill set and abilities, quite a fine caver, with a pleasant disposition; accomplished and fit. Offered JT choices; followed the stream to Pool Chamber, back via the upper streamway. Recent signs of many persons passing this unpopular route. Really nice trip.

10th March Pollbinn - Poulmagollum

Solo

Cloud 70%: Wind SW, F3/4: Visibility 20Nm: Snow: Carnane gauge omm, under snow plug. The plan: itching for exercise. Road up Sliabh Eilbhe challenging. Enroute to Pollbinn noted clear areas around caves found previously in the forestry. Upper Poulmagollum pitch rigged with ladder. Abseiled Pollbinn, into a good sized stream; cascade impressive. Slippery under foot approaching the ladder. John Casey advised route to Fanore impassable.

18th March Souterrain CLO04-093002, Ballyryan

Solo

Cloud 10%: Wind NW, F6: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp: Rain Gauge 7mm. The Plan: revisit this site, further to report below filed by Mary Tunney, in the national archaeological database,

"Within the N interior of a cashel (CLO04-093001-). A souterrain with a rubble filled entrance opening at SSE leading to a NNW-SSE passage (L 2m; Wth 1.1-1.2m at SSE; H 1m) which narrows (Wth 0.9m) towards a chamber and is roofed with three lintels. The irregular-shaped and poorly constructed chamber (L 1.6m WSW-ENE; Wth 1.4-2m; H 1m) is wider towards the top where it is roofed with six lintels, some of which have differing orientations. A continuation of the chamber to the ENE has been blocked by a boulder which has collapsed from the roof. The floor of the chamber is filled with stone, especially in the SW. Outside the entrance there is a circular hollow (L 1m; Wth 1m; D c. 0.4m). Remains of a possible house (CLO04-093003-) lie in the S quadrant of the cashel. A cashel and hut site (CLO04-092---- and CLO04-092002-) are located c. 98m to the W".

Compiled by: Mary Tunney and Lynda McCormack. Date of upload: 13 June 2022

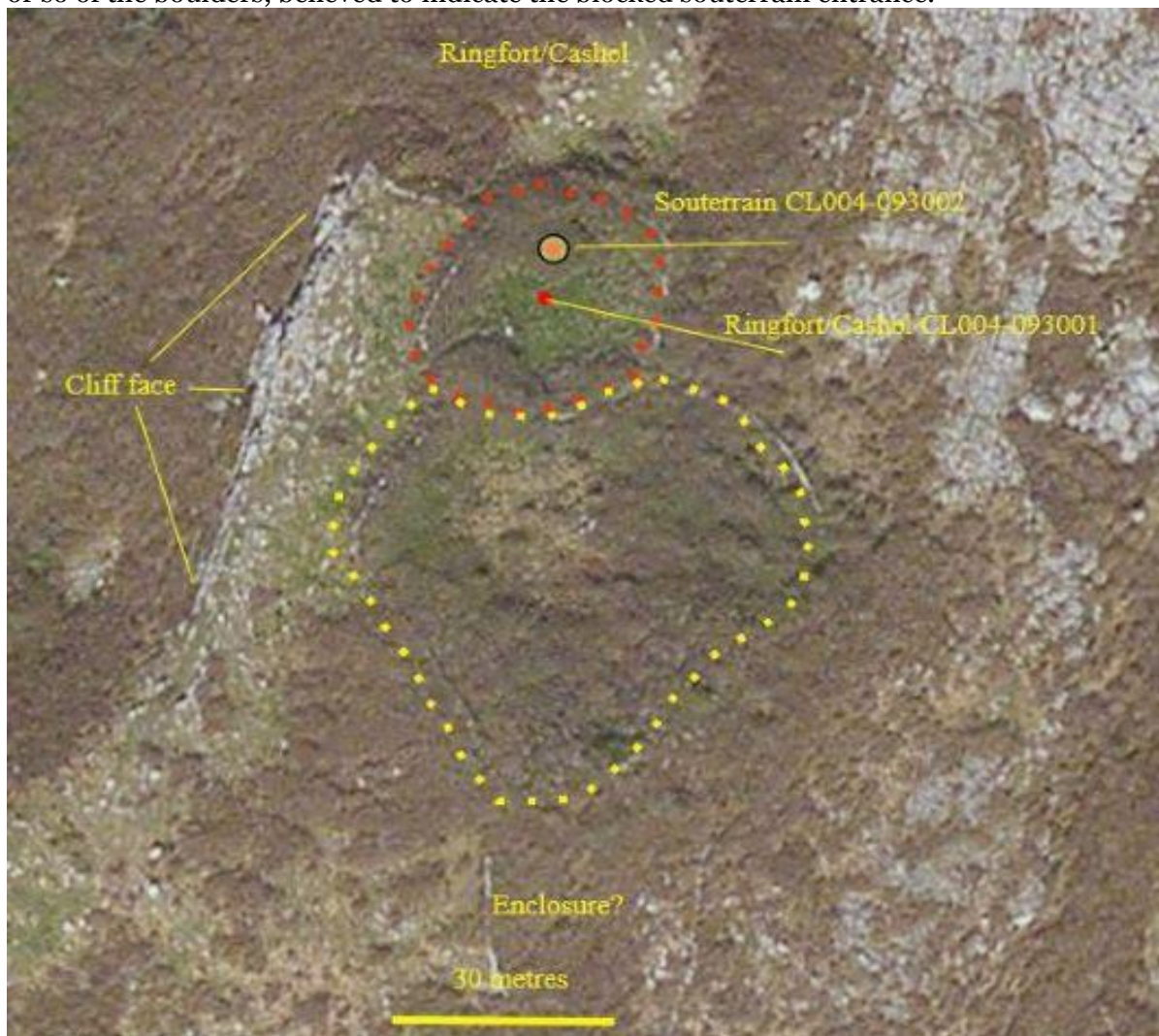
Previously visited with Nigel Burns, (23rd December 2019). Cut a way through the blackthorn briar and hazel thicket, managing to find, what appeared to be a filled souterrain entrance. Further to enquiries landowner/s were, at that time unknown. En-route, today, encountered Peter Gardiner, owner; given permission to wander. In the Tunney report there is no update of the ITM, so must assume either that given is correct, or no GPSR was present at that time. Within the ringfort, blackthorn, briar and hazel growth remain intertwined; after an hour attempting relocate the site, returned to the area of the route previously cut. The metre wide gap has regrown, vigorously, obstructing access. Delighted with the permission to roam this vast area, which extends to Oughtdarra, to James Callinan's and Noel Thynne's land, to name but two. Explaining the souterrain study, PG, was unaware of the souterrain, promised him a report of the site. With foliage at a minimum will start cutting a route tomorrow.

19th March Souterrain CLO04-093002, Ballyryan

Solo

Cloud 100%: Wind ESE, F3/4: Visibility 10Nm: Ground wet: Rain Gauge 3mm. Steady rainfall. The Plan: start cutting a route into the foliage. 09:30. Parked, again, at the area at Poulsallagh. Took route most east to the third ridge, on which the Ringfort is constructed. Trimmed the initial area from the denuded rampart to the garth, to facilitate access for PG to visit site. Began to cut the route previously cleared with Nigel; surprised at the density of the

regrowth. Rain continued, after two hours, soaked. Have managed to get to within a metre, or so of the boulders, believed to indicate the blocked souterrain entrance.



No clearance of the foliage from the interior of the ringfort is evident. Two questions: did MT use the route cut December 2019, though the report was uploaded June 2022? Or, did they access the souterrain from outside the ringfort approaching it from the North? Will check next visit. Attempting contact MT to clarify her route to the souterrain. Red dots denote the outer limit of the ringfort, the yellow dots denote the outline of what appears to be a stock enclosure.

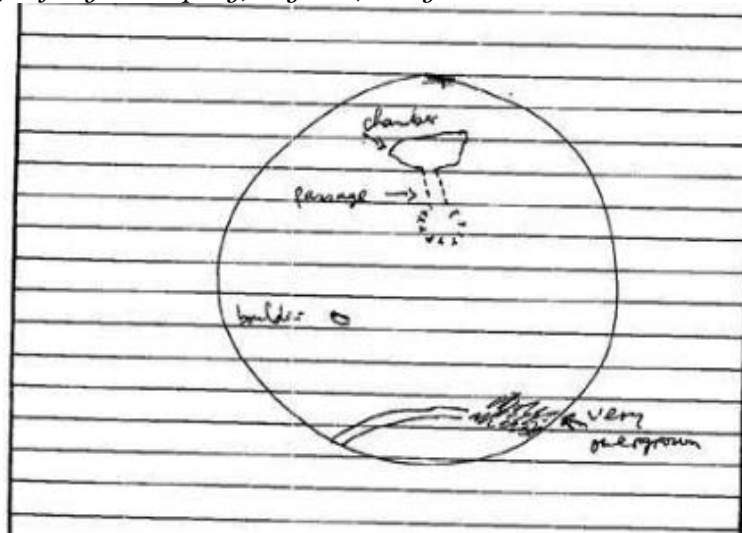
20th March Souterrain CL004-093002, Ballyryan

Mary Tunney replied to email enquiry; the recorded visit was in 1998: and recently uploaded?

Hi Pat, Since the Health and Safety at Work Act (2006) we in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland are no longer entering souterrains as the risk of injury is high. Entering confined underground spaces in structures of uncertain stability where gases may have accumulated over time requires proper training and methodologies to be in place.

“The souterrain you enquire about (CL004-093002-) was visited in 1998, prior to the Act, and was entered at that time. The fieldworker drew a very quick sketch plan of the location (included below) and described the interior. The details have been included in the web description. The souterrain seems to be north of the centre of the cashel with an entrance evident at its SSE extent close to a hollow. The opening was described as being much filled with rubble. It may be currently filled with rubble and so the entrance or opening may not be apparent. It would not be proper to remove the

stones in order to gain entry. Overall I would recommend that you exercise great caution in relation to souterrains and bear in mind that some of the liability in these instances may rest with the land-owner. Thank you for your enquiry, Regards, Mary"



Sketch by Archaeological Survey individual.

20th March St. Breckan's Project F3a & F3b

Solo

Cloud 100%; base 600ft: Wind SSW, F $\frac{3}{4}$: Visibility <10Nm: Ground sodden: Rain gauge 26mm: Raining. The Plan: assess F3a after 26m of rain. Water level was at 1.85m beneath the bridge. Significant volume flowing into the overflow channel; the in situ profile survey datum under 20mm of water. Fine opportunity to observe the flow at this volume/level. Significant number of eddies along the river bank, before and after the solitary tree/shrub growing in the centre of the channel. F3b taking a lot of the river; no eddies evident above the main sink area.



View downstream, (NW), from tree/shrub in centre of overflow channel; irregular river edge impeding river flow, large number of eddies observed along the bankside.

23rd March St. Breckan's Project

Solo

Cloud 100%, base 400ft: Heavy rain: Visibility 2Nm: Rain gauge 12mm; (164mm this month): Ground awash. The Plan: observe site connected with the project. Found water on the road, adjacent the GAA pitch, the pitch flooded to the goal area. The forestry submerged. Large river flowing from Killeany Rising, the track on the west of the fields flooded to 0.6m. At Owentoberlea the bridge arch was submerged. Fitzgerald's field flooded to where all the sinks were submerged. The conduit passing beneath the N67 road, almost filled to its flat roof, barely airspace; maybe a 1/2 " ? At the large sink further south, some evidence of water sinking among the large river flow, the lessened volume passing through the wall, heading west, to turn sharp south. Some water sinking at this sink. The rest dissipating across the field. Heading south noted several risings, water issuing with differing degrees of force.

25th March Knockaunsmountain.

Peter Ward, Dean Mulholland, Chelsia Choi, Ram Kolla

Contacted by PW to assist with their visit to Doolin; acted as guide and callout for Peter Ward's group from Queens University Belfast CC. Showed the group several cave locations, known of, but as yet unvisited by them. They did Pouldubh and Poulmagrai: a pleasant group.

27th March Pluais Gabhar

Solo

15:00. Cloud 90%. Wind SE, F3/4: Visibility >30Nm: Ground wet: rain gauge 0mm: Rain. The Plan; to record artefact found during initial visit. Parked at Faunarooska Cross; walked in: 30mins. Cattle presented a minor issue; circumnavigated the herd to avoid upsetting parents. Leaf-less foliage allowed photography. Took photos of pear shaped depression and entrance. Removed the protective flagstone, placed to protect the stone axe. Set up ranging rods, marked in 0.1 metre segments; assessed feasibility of surveying the location; difficult.

Ideally requires a recorder whilst measurements called out, and installation of a datum. So, future researchers know where to work from. Surveying, will be problematic; help required.

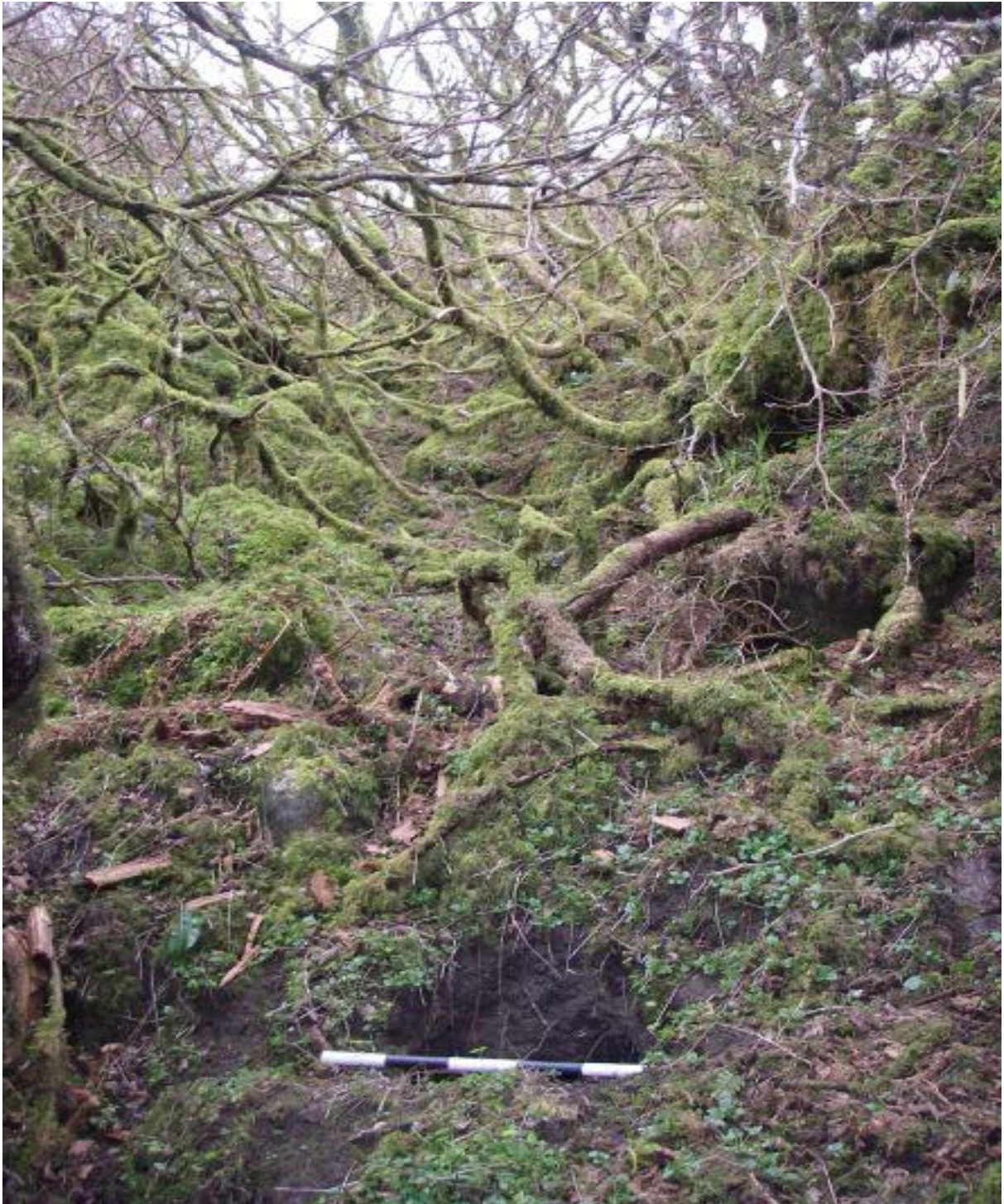
NB. It appears the stone axe was purposely placed in this location; not arriving by soil migration, descending between boulders stacked above and around the cavity. The area is now known to flood, water flow from the mountainside above, backs up and swirls around the cavity; perhaps this explains the slightly “raised” area the axe rests now upon. Backing up of flood water is from the partially choked stream passage; “Boycott’s Bedding”. If indeed a votive offering, placed by those using either of the coastal Mesolithic, encampments, directly below this site, it may have been in appreciation of this available, relatively rare, accessible, freshwater source within this depression. However, adjacent the coastal encampments is a small freshwater spring; today not always above present sea level. At the time of these encampments the sea margin was some eight hundred metres distant from today’s.

Dependent upon rainfall, the Caher River, is only some fifteen hundred metres northeast; this river can sink quite a distance upstream, disappearing from the lower reaches. This compares with the distance and altitude of Pluais Gabhar; being two and a half kilometres southeast and 265m higher. Chert artefacts were found at the encampments; chert beds are exposed on the mountainside; normal nomadic scouring of the mountainsides would discover such resources.

Observations show some amount of water flow is always present flowing in Pluais Gabhar. Suggesting little has changed to the shape, and depth of the depression, or the entrance, since the Ice Age. Now suggested as terminating some 14000 years ago: the southern Mesolithic encampment at Fanore dated a thousand years older than the northern, (6/7000BCE).

The Axe sits upon a very slightly raised area, on a slight, even slope of course silt/granular sedimentary material; sloping toward the open rift which accesses the streamway, some two metres below. The axe is aligned along magnetic bearing 302°. The True bearing of the depression toward Halliday’s Hole is 175°. Potential water sources upon the mountainside, today, are obscured by heather and other forms of dense ground cover. The largest noted in this area is Halliday’s Hole. But, it is likely this depression is a relatively recent occurrence. The only other water sources may have been the stream which surfaces for a short distance to then sink at the Holy Well; some five hundred metres to the east-north-east.

Evidence of recent rainfall was noted adjacent the entrance, two once, small muddy areas are now clean washed. Took photos of the rift and along it to the stream, showing pooled water in in the entrance rift. Satisfied with just photos for the moment. Walked back in heavy showers.



View south-ish, up slope to Halliday's Hole; hole in foreground from whence flooding often issues. Halliday's Hole is approx. 100 metres, SSW. Depression some twenty metres in length.



View North, Pluais Gabhar Entrance.



View South, lower half of depression.



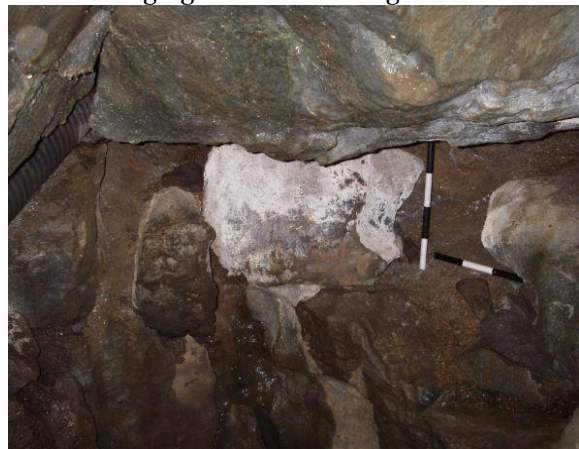
View North of axe, on shelf.



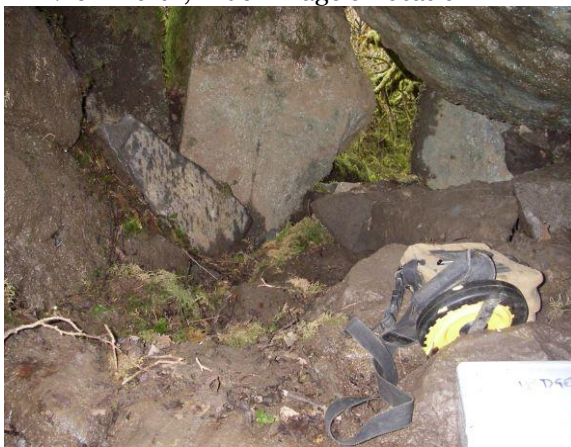
Ranging Rods in 0.1m segments



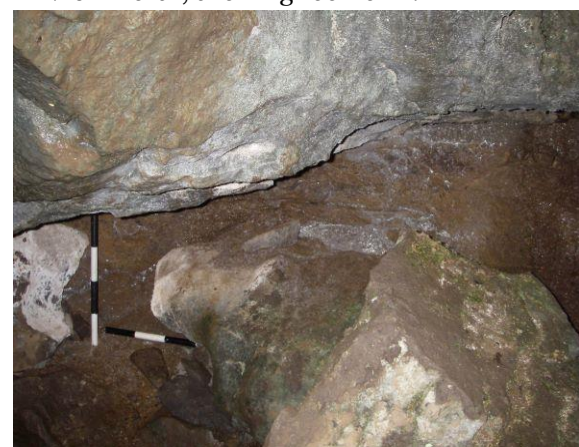
View North, wider image of location



View North, showing roof form.



Entrance



View Northeast of roof boulders.

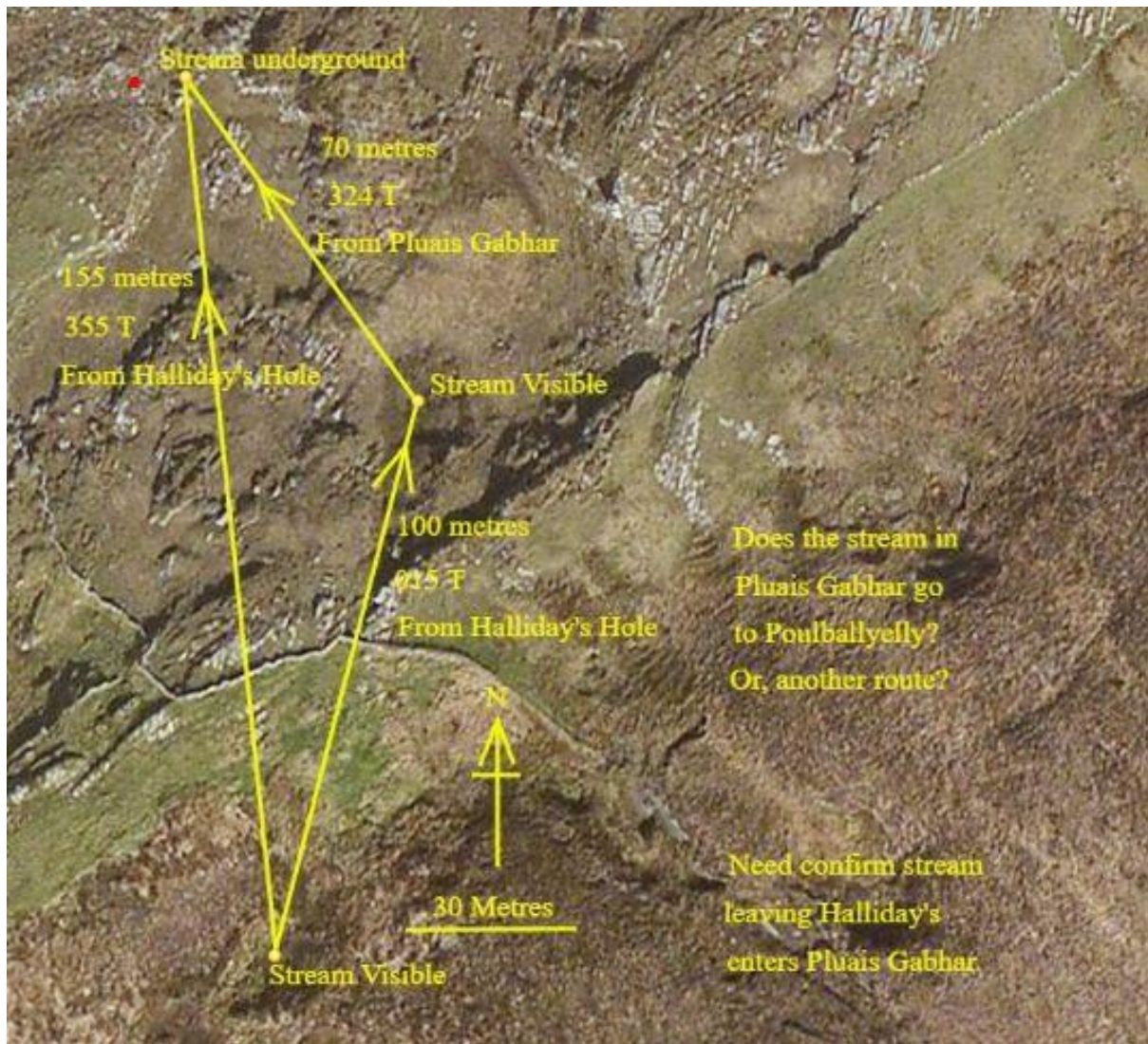


Image showing potential flow of stream sinking in Halliday's Hole.

28th March

Tony Boycott; wonderful news, from LW.

Rainfall, Carnane.

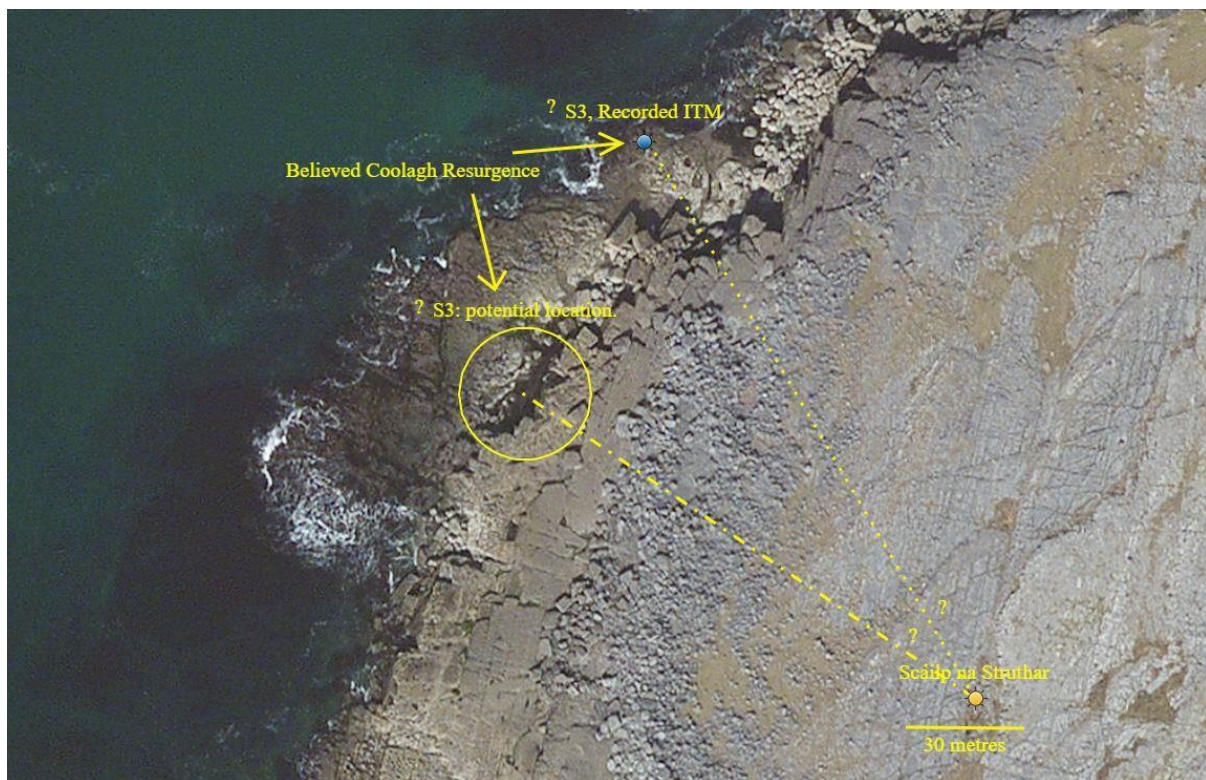
January			February			March		
01/01/23	6		01/02/23	0		01/03/23	0	
02/01/23	0		02/02/23	0		02/03/23	0	
03/01/23	6		03/02/23	0		03/03/23	0	
04/01/23	11		04/02/23	0		04/03/23	0	
05/01/23	1		05/02/23	0		05/03/23	0	
06/01/23	1		06/02/23	0		06/03/23	2	
07/01/23	9		07/02/23	0		07/03/23	4	
08/01/23	7		08/02/23	0		08/03/23	0	
09/01/23	4		09/02/23	0		09/03/23	0	
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13/01/23	9		13/02/23	3		13/03/23	16	
14/01/23	9		14/02/23	0		14/03/23	6	
15/01/23	4		15/02/23	10		15/03/23	7	
16/01/23	5		16/02/23	10		16/03/23	26	

17/01/23	0	17/02/23	11	17/03/23	2
18/01/23	0	18/02/23	4	18/03/23	7
19/01/23	0	19/02/23	4	19/03/23	3
20/01/23	0	20/02/23	3	20/03/23	25
21/01/23	0	21/02/23	6	21/03/23	10
22/01/23	0	22/02/23	6	22/03/23	37
23/01/23	away	23/02/23	0	23/03/23	12
24/01/23	away	24/02/23	0	24/03/23	9
25/01/23	away	25/02/23	0	25/03/23	7
26/01/23	6	26/02/23	0	26/03/23	0
27/01/23	4	27/02/23	0	27/03/23	0
28/01/23	0	28/02/23	0	28/03/23	9
29/01/23	2			29/03/23	2
30/01/23	2			30/03/23	0
31/01/23	1			31/03/23	0
Total	142	Total	61	Total	191

3rd April Scailp na Struthar

Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

13:30. Cloud 100%: Wind SSW, F 4/6: Visibility 25Nm: Rain gauge omm: Ground damp:
 The Plan: assess reopening the dig commenced by PC in the 1980s, abandoned the 2000s.
 The dig is at the northern end of the rift, which contains S4, at the southern end. This dig received intermittent attention prior to permanent settlement in Doolin. After several attempts at points various in the floor of this large, choked surface rift, a shaft, some three metres deep, was gradually excavated between large boulders and the solid eastern wall. At an estimated depth of around four metres, below the surface of the site, the upper edge of a bedding seemed apparent; silt was present.



Conjected flow routes from dig to coast.

One arrival, after a brief delay, PC relocated the shaft; the original lump of tree trunk, used as the lid, likely taken for firewood. A careful arrangement of boulders had been constructed to cover the $\approx 0.6\text{m} \times 0.4\text{m}$ hole. Below, in the bottom of the open shaft, was evidence of debris. Down a hole, in the north part of the floor, depth continues. PMcG descended the shaft, handing up manageable rocks. A previous constraint, eventually causing abandonment, being as PC could not reach high enough to place rocks on the surface. The shaft is surrounded by three very large boulders and associated debris; not all compacted as one would like. The place requires braces to maintain the boulders in situ, prior to further excavation. Three short, stout, sections of driftwood were collected and placed over the expose entrance, then covered with rocks. Walking back to the motors, at Poulsallagh, Considine's was discussed at length; PMcG suggesting another deployment of the camera to see around the corner, before committing to remove the awkward lump of wall, in "Paul's Pot"; planned for Easter Monday, next, 13:00.

9th April (2003)

Lost Gus O'Connor

10th April Considine's (South End)

Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

Cloud 75%: Wind SW, F3/4: Visibility 20Nm: Ground saturated: Rain Gauge 18mm: Medium stream: The Plan: attempt video the tight area leading to a rift, to assess future of dig. CC in support, PMcG and PC to "Paul's Pot". The small rift, at right angles to the rift/gap beyond "Paul's Pot" was noted as having small sized debris and silt deposit. Scrutiny of this area decided it as having little potential. Examined the lower west passage at -28m, at its end a bucket was removed, washed in from adjacent "shelf". Close scrutiny reviewed options of a way on at -29m, in the base of the narrow rift. To enable digging in its confined base, a significant section of solid rock needs removal. Took the decision to close the site. Prior to removal of the digs infrastructure, CC suggested offer an "open day" to those interested in viewing the dig.

Hours 5 (3380), Southend (2328), Kibbles 0 (6754), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7691

Four sites should be revisited, as digging at Considine's is now concluded. The site adjacent Halliday's Hole, Pluais Gabhar, Scalp na Struthar and Poulacapple Pot.

13th April Souterrain CL004-093002, Ballyryan

Solo

Cloud 60%: Wind W, F2/3: Visibility >25Nm: Ground wet: Rain Gauge 4mm: The Plan: approach the souterrain area from the north. Returning from Fanore, chanced looking for the souterrain, again. Parked at Poulsallagh, walked in. From the present opening into the ringfort continued northwards. The narrow cattle path, between hazel and blackthorn used some years ago has all but grown over. Spent an unsuccessful hour trying to force way through. Changed tack, retraced route, taking a wide circuit around the thicket to the west, aiming for a field hundred metres north of previous location. Not seen, encountered larger thicket. Need return with shears and loppers.

16th April (1918)

Spike Milligan's Birthday

17th April MQ05

Cheg Chester

ITM 514527 x 705067

13:00. Cloud 100%, descending: Wind E, F4: Cool: Visibility 35 - 10Nm; Ground wet: Rain Gauge 0mm: The Plan: assess site potential. Previously visited 6th January 2021, during which a column of vapour was witnessed arising from the depression; photographed by CC. MQ05 is some fifty metres WSW of Halliday's Hole. Met CC at Faunarooska Cross. Left the Drover's Road at the cattle crush, headed, obliquely, ENE, onto the ridge at 260m. En-route, another dig came to mind, without a GPSR at that time, tried memorize the location; viewing

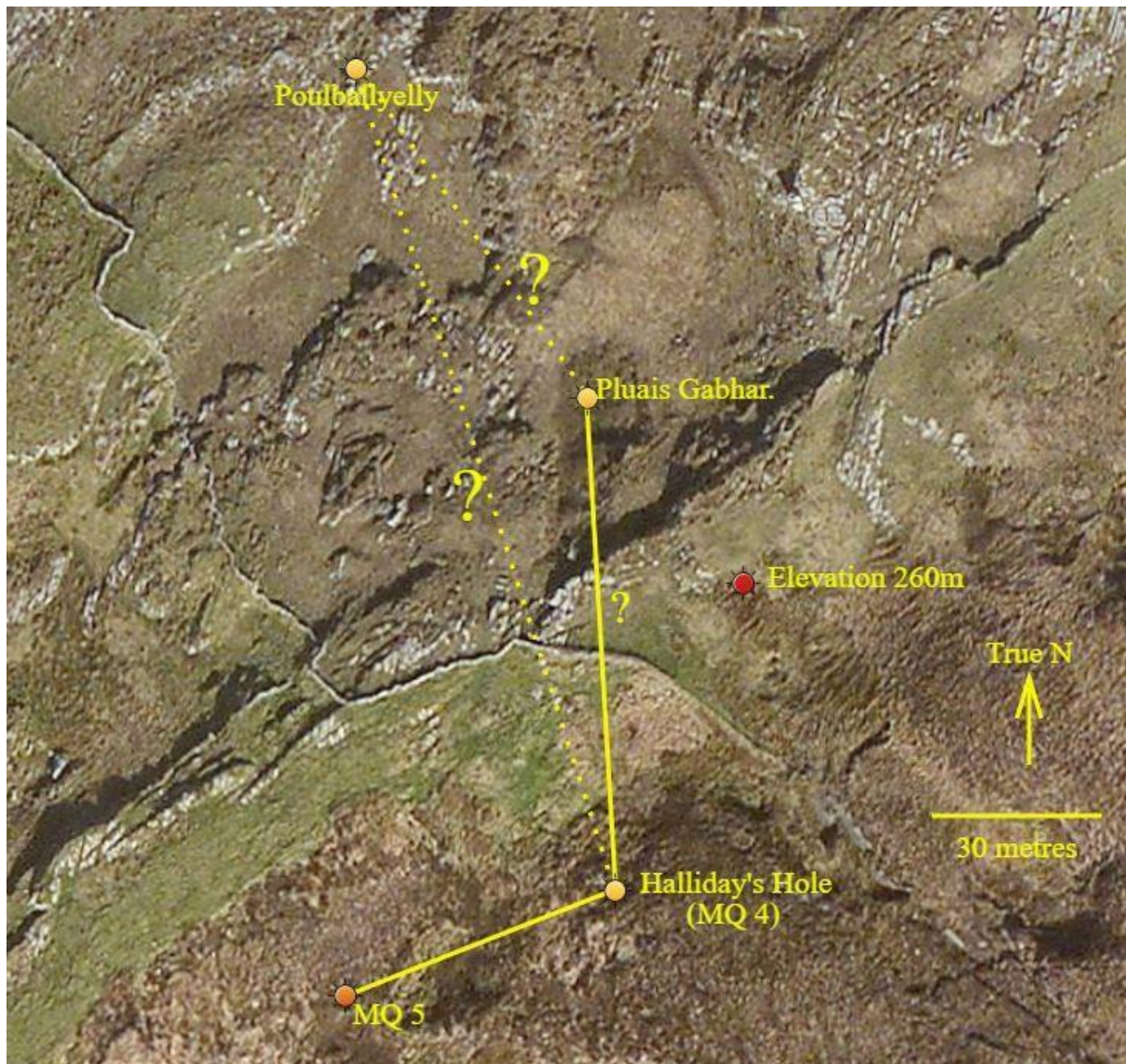
the area, it needs a wander to find it. Deployed a ladder as CC cut away some branches; the hole will need the fencing extended from existing. A lot of old roots and branches were cut away in the rift; down to -4m. This cleared area allowed a better view. Little has changed. The shaft/rift is solid, except for the narrow end; north and south. Each end has a clay/silt fill with fibrous vegetation roots systems. Began to clear the original bedding opening, west side; managed lower the clay floor by some 0.3m. Exposing a “too tight” vertical joint heading away east-ish, which takes water. Wondering how to deal with an overhanging lump of clay, (50kgs), it fell out; problem solved. The unstable fill, at either end of the rift and the obvious presence of streams at each end, will cause issues flowing over the hastily stacked clay spoil: minor amount of shoring required. At the same level of the west bedding is an undercut, a possible continuation to the south end. A spade pressed into the bedding reaches almost its length; 0.6m; pressed into the floor the depth of clay is around 0.4m. Previous thoughts of lowering the floor rather than attempt mine along the narrow rift, may just work. Names suggested, prior to translating into Irish, Rainbow, Spectrum, Spectral. Four local caves, Pollapooka I, II, III and Poul an Siog allude to The Fairy Folk. Hours 4 (4).



Chester.

6th January 2021, column of condensation.

Photo Cheg



Relative locations of three sites; stream sinking in Halliday's may flow to Pluais Gabhar. Need water trace to check if water appears in Poulballyelly. If so pointless digging Pluais Gabhar. Alternately, MQ05 takes water, though no surface stream, the surface foliage is water logged.

Poulfantaiseach = Phantasmal, spectral, fantastic. Four adjacent holes are named, alluding to supernatural entities; Pooka, Siog.

25th April Lascaris War Rooms and HQ Tunnels, Upper Barrakka Gardens, Valletta, Malta.

Pauline Cronin

The Peninsula on which Valletta City is constructed from the 16th C, consists of Lower Coralline limestone; relatively soft rock, similar to Bath Stone. Cavities, both small and huge were cut to hold drinking water and create passages for the vast forts communications. Come WWII many were joined together to create a vast system wherein over 38000 could shelter from Axis air raids. The war rooms and tunnels pertain to the housing of Malta's defence organization. The ninety minute tour barely captures this huge underground system.

27th April Għar Dalam, Birżebbuġa Malta

Pauline Cronin

An important site; lowest stratigraphic levels, produced remains of dwarf elephants, Hippo's etc. seemingly dated to 500,000 years old? A horizontal passage bisected by a large surface stream; long since gone. Humans dated to ≈ 7500 BCE. The adjacent museum, pure delight.

1st May Returned from Malta with back issue, barely able to walk.

6th May Coronation of King Charles III

9th May Back discomfort abating, much, much improved.

10th – 15th May Occupied with increased search area for two missing persons. Need a trip.

15th May Halliday's Hole – Pluais Gabhar - Poulfantaiseach (MF05)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

14:00. Cloud 90%: Wind NW, F3/4: Visibility <25Nm: Ground wet: Rain gauge 1mm: Stream tiny: The Plan: conduct water trace between Halliday's Hole and Pluais Gabhar. Using a medium supplied by CC, introduced it into Halliday's; water flow disappointing. CC and PMcG descended to monitor the similarly small flow at Pluais Gabhar. Meanwhile PC descended Poulfantaiseach to drill the 16mm holes for the forthcoming shorting stemple supports. Unfortunately, around 100kgs of humus and clay from the south end had slumped into the bottom of the rift; much being the previous, hastily packed spoil: now obscuring features previously exposed. Working in the confined area the clay etc. floor soon turned to welly deep porridge. Managed to drill all four holes. Vertical timbers need be a minimum of two metres long, allowing for them to, if necessary, be driven downward. A wide surface area, to the east appears to conduct a lot of water into this hole, in addition to that entering the northern end. Returned to Pluais Gabhar, where the trace was negative; further attempts will be made. The stream sinking in Halliday's is strong believed to be the same flowing through Pluais Gabhar. The question; is this stream the same as that in Poulballyelly? If so there's no point in digging this cracking site. (4 x 50mm scaffold tubes at 29, 28, 24 and 21 inches long.)

21st May (1917) Lost Great Uncle Bert, (19).

18th – 25th May London – Duxford – Cambridge - Wickam Fenland.
Dig Hastilow, Roger Day

After discussions whilst in Explorer's Bar; Panama 2023 trip: RD organized this visit. Picked up by RD and DH at Stanstead, $\approx 23:30$. Over the week, took in the Science Museum, Duxford Air Base, (WWII), Stretham Old Engine, steam engine, circa 1835 and windmill pumps. Bow section of British midget submarine X7; Sheer delight.

Of primary purpose the deployment of RD's submersible drone the "Sinking Scud", to investigate the sunken feature near Littleport, on the River Ouse. Weather conditions poor, waves some 0.3m high, actually producing "white horses". Impracticable to maintain RD's boat on station during operations, deployed drone from the adjacent bank. The maiden voyage, used to familiarize RD with the operation. The second deployment; to locate the feature. Visibility, barely 0.5m, some difficulty orientating in near blind conditions. Passing vessels required a swift return to base to avoid damage to the umbilical. Two successful deployments, in awful visibility; a steep learning curve for the pilot, handling vis, approaching vessels, and learning the controls. The "Indian Garden" restaurant, Littleport, producing superb food, and Cobra.



Photo

DH

Maiden voyage of the “Sinking Scud”; RD and PC.
Rated to -100m.



Photo DH.

Roger's Submersible.



Photo DH

Biber 90 U-boat; midget submarine

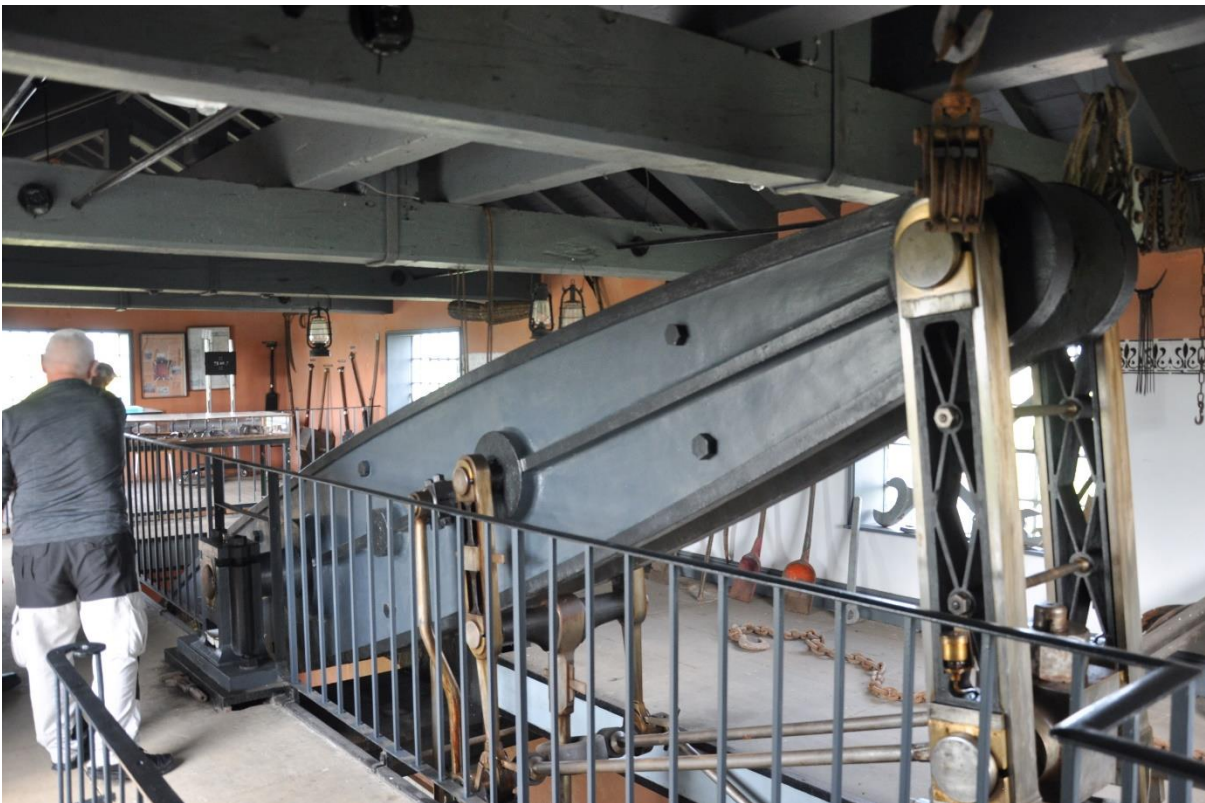
The Biber 90 is one of 324 Bibers built for K-Force in 1944. It was built in three sections bolted together, with the rear section holding the 32 hp Opel-Blitz Otto automobile engine. The engine gave a surface range of 100 nautical miles at 6.5 knots and the three torpedo battery troughs Type 13 T 210 and a 13 hp electric torpedo motor gave a submerged range of 8.6 nautical miles at 5.3 knots plus 8 nautical miles at 2.5 knots. Armament comprised two G 7e electric torpedoes or two mines. It was one of three Bibers launched from the canal at Hellevoetsluis in late December 1944. It was found sinking 49 miles (79 km) NE of Dover on 29 December 1944, its crewman had failed to properly close the engine exhaust system and he died from resultant carbon monoxide poisoning. HMS Ready took it in tow and, even when it sank close to Dover harbour entrance, the Royal Navy raised it and subjected it to extensive trials. The pilot of Biber 90 was Joachim Langsdorff, the son of Captain Hans Langsdorff of the ill-fated Graf Spee. The story of the development of the Biber, and, in particular, the capture of the Biber 90 can be read in more detail in the IWM Review No 4 (1989)



Scoop wheel



Double acting atmospheric cylinder.



Photos RD and DH

28th May Poulfantaiseach - Poulballyelly

Lenny Smith, Paul McGrath

13:00. Cloud 5%: Wind NE, F2/3: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp: Rain gauge omm: The Plan, install two shoring stemples. Managed to cock up one length of galvanized scaffold tube, but fitted the other. Closer inspection of the south end proposes inserting, temporary supports, horizontally from what is the middle stemple into the dodgy peat/clay/porridge, to see what, exactly is at the lowest part of this south end; where the bedding was previously probed and found to extend over 0.6m.

Reviewed fencing the area, estimate some twelve posts and wire required. Explained area and cave locations to LS. To Poulballyelly to see where its stream enters, estimated as fifty metres from the entrance: potentially fed from Halliday's and maybe Pluais Gabhar. Another sink needing tracing is the stream passing the Bog Hole. Cautiously descending the near vertical Poulballyelly entrance slope, it collapsed; a large flag the culprit, some half way down. Spent an hour clear the pile of debris, with some success; though part of the upper mid entrance area is unstable. This instability appears to be from the large boulders cast into the entrance rift. However, the pitch is almost open; perhaps one more session required. The present state of the remaining pile is suspect and may continue to collapse into the lower pitch area.

28th May (1951) First BBC Radio transmission of the Crazy People, aka The Goon Show.

29th May (1953) Everest summited; Tenzing Norgay – Edmund Hillary

1st June (1990) Lost Bob Drake

1st June (1982) L.A.D.S. formed.

5th June Caherconnell

Employed on a six week contract as site supervisor for the University archaeological summer international school.

5th June Poulfantaiseach

Paul McGrath

18:00. Cloud 30%: Wind NE, F4: Visibility 30Nm: Ground dry: Rain gauge omm: 22°C. The Plan, install second shoring stemple. En-route chance meet with Michael Queally; explained the dig and its believed importance. Told work away, again. Following this delightful meet, continued with the brief visit. Tried out fence posts as vertical shoring, held in place by the horizontal stemples; seem to be the answer. At least until able to clear the base of the rift to assess the gap beneath the wall; wriggly tin should prevent the wetter porridge squeezing through the gaps. Intend to install a fence to protect cattle. Into the Irish Arms for a pint.

6th June (1944) 07:30. Sword Beach.

Father, (23), one of 1600 Engineers, cleared obstacles from Sword Beach under fire.

10th June Poulfantaiseach – Coolagh River Cave

Solo

19:40. Cloud 100%: Wind E, F3: Visibility 20Nm: Rain Gauge 4mm: Ground dry. The Plan: convey fence posts to dig. The fractured nature of trips will exist until the end of the six week contract. PMcG had previously purchased and delivered posts and electric fence brackets to PC's place. Loaded same; reached the dig as heavy drizzle swept in from the east. Abandoned plan as drizzle continued. Took the route home passing Polldonough South. Noted the field with the "all weather entrance", smoothed off and several dry stone walls removed. Stopped and spoke with the owner. Explained the benefits of inserting a tube to maintain cave access, top recurring subsidence and injury to cattle, requested permission to do so; told to bring it along and I'll clear the entrance out and install it. The previously scrounged length of one

metre diameter black plastic tube is around three metres in length. So, set on the limestone below it should protrude above soil level by maybe half a metre. This was received with the comment; “No problem I’ll fence around that”. Need organize a trailer, asap. Serendipity!

11th June Coolagh River Cave
Solo

14:30. Cloud 100%, base 800ft: Wind SE, F2: Visibility 25Nm: Ground damp: Rain gauge 0mm. The Plan: deliver the one metre diameter plastic tube. Picked up a trailer from Mattie Shannon. Returned to home, struggled with the large lump across the yard and onto the trailer. Issues negotiating the Doolin Folkfest traffic. The narrow lane adjacent the field also presented issues. Managed to position trailer parallel to the gate, released pipe and pushed it off the trailer. Surprised at the speed it attained hurtling down the seemingly gentle slope. Pushed it the remaining fifty metres to the entrance. Rang the landowner to report delivery and that PC can be available to assist Friday evening or next Saturday. Stopped in the Irish Arms for a pint; returned trailer.

15th June Pouldubh

Victoria Albert, Reade Lawson, Sara Helly

Cloud 100%: Wind ESE, F4: Visibility 20Nm: Ground damp: Small stream: Rain Gauge 4mm. The Plan: accompany students caving; 2 x female, 1 x male. To satisfy curiosity of three non-cavers; took them to Pouldubh. Leading from the rear, had each lead the group. At the waterfall, happy with their demeanour, directed they climb up into the passage leading to Pouldubh middle entrance. All chuffed at the experience. Horse fly's a real pest.

Heading back to their accommodation, burned to know of progress with the pipe at B9a. So, detoured past Polldonough South, (B9), field, delighted to see PV had installed the pipe directly onto the limestone. When complete its top edge appears will be a little above the finished field surface. PV said he will install a fence to complete the task. A nice example of what can be done to maintain access and reduce the inconvenience of subsidence. This will be a topic of conversation for some time.



View from gate toward Polldonough South;
across cleared field.

2023



View northeast, from gate.



Polldonough "B9a"



Pipe, supplied by PC, installed by Pat Vaughan.

17th June Poulfantaishach
Solo

14:30. Cloud 99%, base \approx 1200ft: Wind SE, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp: Rain gauge 0mm. The Plan: deliver more fence posts. Dark skies noted to the southeast of Lisdoonvarna. Encountered deluge at Faunarooska Cross; time lapse between lightning and thunder nine – fourteen seconds; storm passing out over the bay: SE to NW. Rain eased, in brightening sky headed along Drover's road; soaked opening the second gate. Stopped at the ruined cabin; placing fences post over the wall, lightning struck up slope, four hundred metres east; simultaneous clap of thunder; rattled the tailgate. Further, sustained, heavy shower; swiftly finished task, ready for tomorrow, to sherpa up to the dig. Found 12mm in gauge over the last 90 minutes. Lot of surface water on the roads. No water at F3a.

18th June Poulfantaishach
Paul McGrath

14:00. Cloud 90%: Wind SE, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp: Rain gauge 19mm. The Plan: convey posts to dig. Threatening weather front. The larger diameter and smaller posts swiftly carried up to the dig. An existing, buried post resurrected from the undergrowth. Made an assessment of the number of missing/rotted posts along the line of the electric fence. PMcG to pick up more fence posts; barb wire may be available from a pal of PC. PC has staples and the electric fence insulators bought by PMcG. Returned to truck before impending downpour; watched the torrent from the liquid comfort of the Irish Arms.

21st June Quarry, (CL010-213---) – Tempall Cronan, (CL010-021002)
Nick Geh

17:30. Cloud 40%: Wind S, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Ground karst: Rain gauge 2mm. The Plan: NG to show worked limestone grave slabs. Straight to the site, as working at the NUIG archaeological summer school at Caherconnell. During a chat, NG described several 2m x 1m x

0.15/0.2m grave slabs. With regard to the souterrain study, asked NG show the site. A group of these slabs are in the area of the road junction at ITM 528877 x 699193. The visit was conducted solely to the west of the road junction. But several are on land to the east, belonging to a different owner. The glass smooth karst surface meant no dressing of the grave slab surface was necessary, prior to inscribing the deceased details. The smooth, level, extensive karst surface does suggest it was formed at a depth, remote from surface turbulence. The slabs are beautifully worked, one, (O'Brien), having a date 1835; identified by NG, after clever photographic and light manipulation. An adjacent area shows the working of a 0.15m thick bed with the expected, resultant coarse detritus. The dressed slabs are of fine quality. The area, the slabs removal and the dressing to a professional finish satisfies several questions surrounding the finding and production of lintels which formed a souterrains roof. Plan return and study the workings further. Taken on a wander to the site of Tempall Cronan and adjacent St. Cronan's grave, and shrine. A well visited, venerated place. Well-kept and maintained: previously visited in company with the Dark Shamrock Team in the early 90s. The Romanesque, northern doorway is, perhaps, of the 12th century; this stone construction likely replaced an earlier timber church. Today's form is suggested as altered during the medieval period? (1100AD – 1600AD). The two, triangular graves quite the rare construct.



View Northwest, Tempall Cronan

28th June Clooncoose Cave, CL010-100004

Spenser Canham, Patrick Shen, Michael St. Myers

18:30. Cloud 70%: Wind SW, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Ground wet: Rain gauge 16mm. The Plan: conduct visit for student archaeologists. Unambiguous features within, confirm it a refuge. The high status Cashel of Cahercommaun, CO10-057---, 800m to the north, is likely the seat of power governing the two square enclosures, adjacent the cave. None of the team had ever been underground, nor in a souterrain. All delighted.

29th June Poulfantaiseach

Paul McGrath

19:00. Cloud 100%, base 1200ft: Wind S, F4: Visibility 10Nm: Ground wet: Rain gauge 14mm. The Plan: convey fence posts to the dig. Lowering sky. Caught by the threatening

heavy shower, passing Pluais Gabhar; no shelter; soaked in seconds. Attempted shelter from the deluge, none available. Continued ascent. Installed posts around the dig; encountering an ancient fence among the undergrowth. Installed large post on the first electric fence line, two others required, likewise attend to the opening in the bushes of Halliday's Hole, which opens directly onto the pot entrance, likely two posts and a horizontal piece of timber? Need wire to complete fence around the dig. To the Irish Arms for a pint; sat steaming in the warm.

Rainfall at Carnane for April, May and June, 280mm.
April always = Malta trip. Totalled on return.

30th June End of fourth week at Caherconnell; invited to the Bahamas by Claire Soloman.

30th June Grant application to SUI for financial support to complete Considine's shaft grill.

Rainfall April – May - June

01/04/23	0	01/05/23	0	01/06/23	0
02/04/23	0	02/05/23	0	02/06/23	0
03/04/23	0	03/05/23	0	03/06/23	0
04/04/23	5	04/05/23	0	04/06/23	0
05/04/23	14	05/05/23	21	05/06/23	0
06/04/23	0	06/05/23	0	06/06/23	0
07/04/23	0	07/05/23	0	07/06/23	0
08/04/23	0	08/05/23	17	08/06/23	0
09/04/23	0	09/05/23	0	09/06/23	0
10/04/23	17	10/05/23	9	10/06/23	0
11/04/23	8	11/05/23	0	11/06/23	0
12/04/23	32	12/05/23	4	12/06/23	0
13/04/23	4	13/05/23	0	13/06/23	0
14/04/23	0	14/05/23	0	14/06/23	17
15/04/23	0	15/05/23	1	15/06/23	4
16/04/23	3	16/05/23	0	16/06/23	0
17/04/23	0	17/05/23	0	17/06/23	1
18/04/23	0	18/05/23	0	18/06/23	17
19/04/23	0	19/05/23	8	19/06/23	9
20/04/23	0	20/05/23	12	20/06/23	4
21/04/23	0	21/05/23	0	21/06/23	2
22/04/23	1	22/05/23	0	22/06/23	0
23/04/23	0	23/05/23	0	23/06/23	9
24/04/23	away	24/05/23	0	24/06/23	7
25/04/23	away	25/05/23	0	25/06/23	16
26/04/23	away	26/05/23	0	26/06/23	3
27/04/23	away	27/05/23	0	27/06/23	19
28/04/23	away	28/05/23	0	28/06/23	16
29/04/23	away	29/05/23	0	29/06/23	14
30/04/23	away	30/05/23	0	30/06/23	4
		31/05/23	0		
Total	84	Total	72	Total	124

2nd July Coolagh River Cave, (B9a) – St. Breckan's Project, (F3a)
Solo

14:30. Cloud 90%: Wind W, F4: Visibility 30Nm: Ground wet: Rain gauge 2mm. The Plan: check both sites. Caherconnell/ Galway University contract to run another two weeks; took the opportunity to visit. PV has not, as yet, completed levelling the depression up the edge of the pipe. At F3a, river level 0.5m, the previous, partly opened rift has evidence of taking a lot of water; worth digging this spot further.

5th July DJI Mavic 2 pro Drone arrived.

7th July Caherconnell archaeological school – University of Galway

End of fifth week, of the six week contract. The commitment seriously cramps playing caving.

8th July Poulfantaiseach

Paul McGrath

12:00, Cloud 90%: Wind SW, F2: Visibility 25Nm: Ground wet: Rain gauge 3mm. The Plan: complete the fencing; secure the site. PMcG's limited availability, meant fitting in this visit; PMcG away until around the end of next week. Laden with more fence posts and wire, took all up to the dig. Installed several more posts around the depression and wired the perimeter, improving on the extant, aged fencing. Minor tasks required to complete the stile and secure fencing to corner stay. Returning to the Hilux, fitted several posts to the partially collapsed line of electric fencing; to show willing. Into the Irish Arms for a swift one.

11th July (2018)

Thai Rescue

16th July Knockaunsmountain.

Duncan Hornby, Claire Vivian

Squeezed in a guided tour of entrances for visiting cavers, prior to packing for Wales. Led the team to Poulmagraí, Pouldubh, Faunarooska in order to familiarize their locations in the area. Arranged for Paul McGrath to accompany them; a nice couple. Spoke with MQ, he's delighted of the fencing around the cave and replacement of busted posts along the electric route.

18th – 23rd July Llangattock – Big Pit

Pauline Cronin

To Sarah Farr's wedding; stopping at the Farr's; cracking time. To Big Pit, unfortunately missed the last tour at 15:30. Ferry, The Oscar Wilde, huge, the delay, due to incompetent loading, almost an hour. Intend sail Sealink, after this obvious, avoidable debacle.

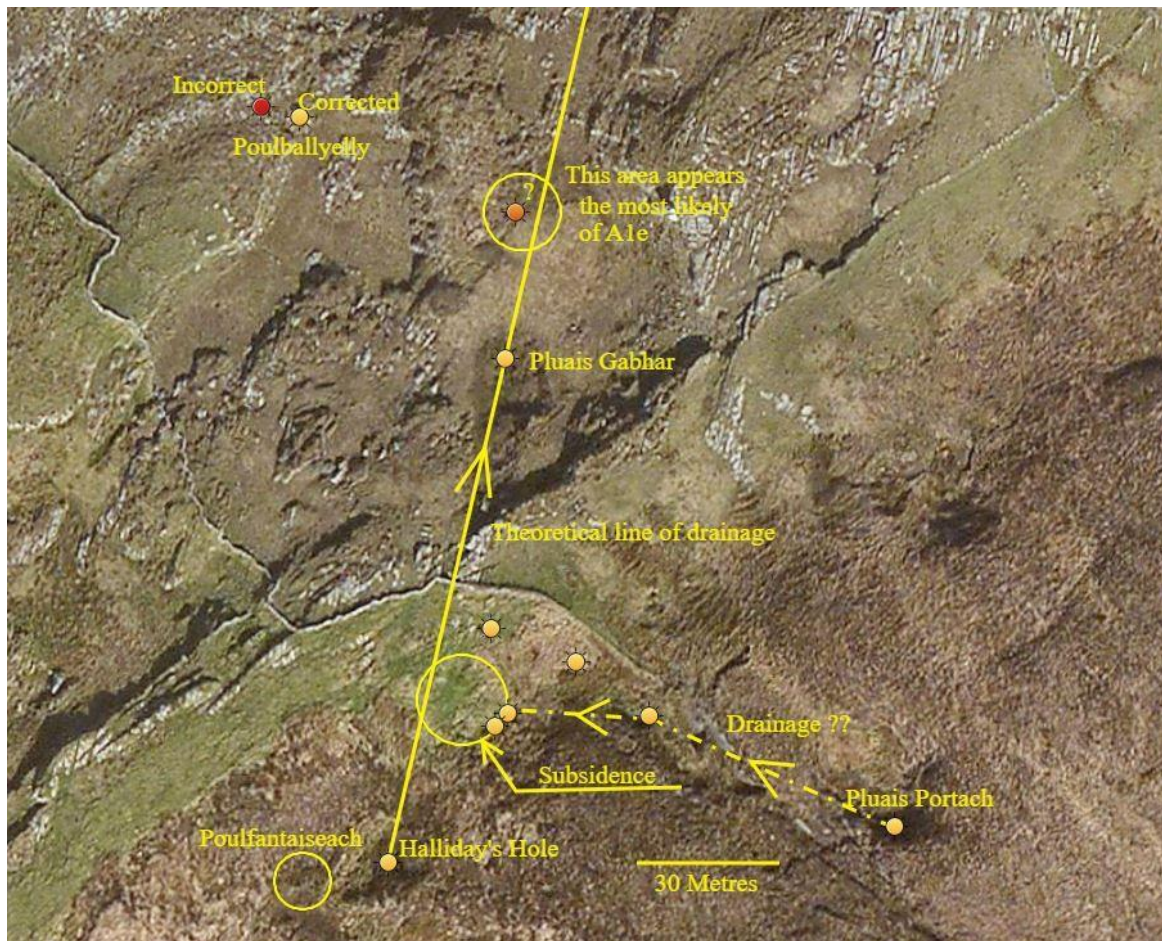
24th July Poulfantaiseach

Solo

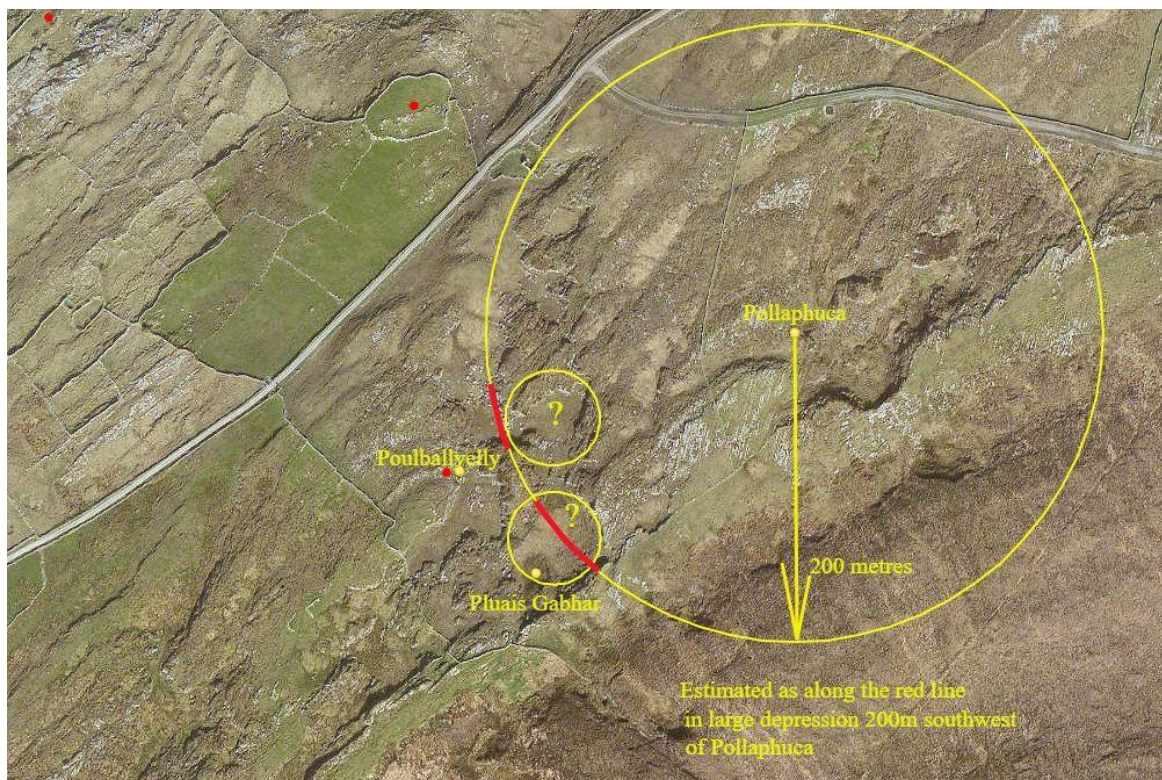
16:00. Cloud 90%: Wind W, F2/3: Visibility 20Nm: Ground damp: Flies: Rain Gauge 49mm, (*unread since the morning of the 18th July*). The Plan: secure the stile. Carried drill, timber and Galv-band. Dozens of flies took shelter from the wind in the lee of the poor sod trudging uphill. Worse in the depression. Secured the horizontal piece of the stile and used the metal strip, Galv-band to secure the corner fence post to a ground anchor. Didn't hang about. Ready to dig.

Additional.

En-route to the truck reviewed the area where A1e was purported to be located; long since reported as being "Bulldozed level" as was Pluais Gabhar, (Goat Hole). The elevated, grassy, area does not lend itself to cave, however an area NNE of Pluais Gabhar, is the more likely. Obscured by foliage, at the base of the adjacent, exposed limestone step, may be the top of a rift. As the owner of this area of land is presently unknown, will not pursue any digging, just yet. Will speak to Michael Queally when presenting copies of Faunarooska photos.



Reconciling “lost” Aie location relating to developing project.



Reconciling Pollaphuca II, from original description rather than the modern, incorrect ITM in Caves of Midwest Clare, placing it two hundred metres further SW, beyond Poulballyelly.

Pollapooka II.

Somewhat problematic attempting reconcile locations of Pollapooka II and A1e. Guide book descriptions below. Experience suggests an area, possibly two, where a, now obscured minor surface stream may sink in the “Large depression”, adjacent Goat Hole. Understand it was OCL reported the place as “bulldozed flat”. Likely during one of his irregular visits to Mrs Queally, who lived in the cabin along the drover’s road, (pers comms M Queally, 2020/23).

Caves of Co. Clare

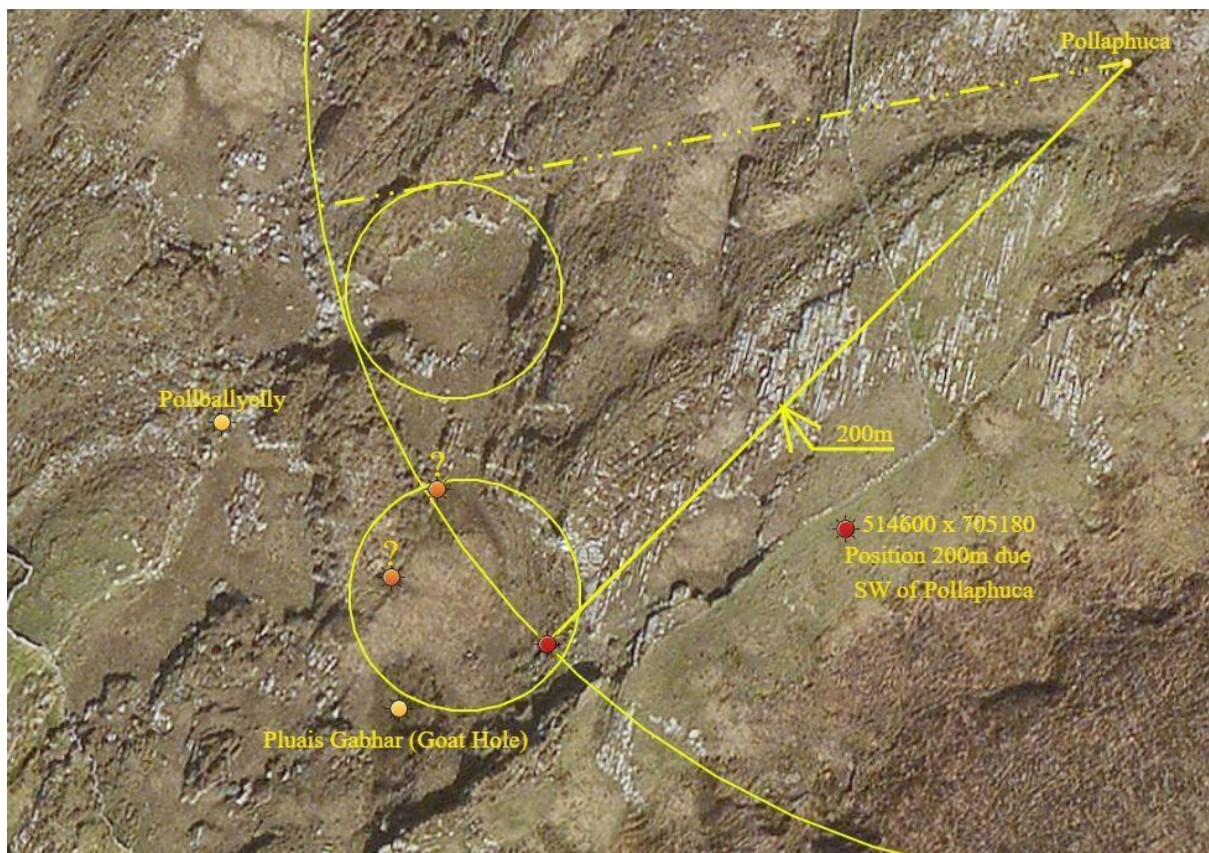
*“There is another large depression in the open limestone, 200m southwest from Pollapooka I. A small stream sinks in the floor of the depression and **may** be followed underground for 5 metres before the passage becomes too narrow. The water is next seen in Poulballyelly”.* (Caves of Co. Clare, 1980, page 68).

Caves of Co. Clare and South Galway and Caves of Mid-West Ireland.

*“Pollapooka II is in a large depression, on the limestone 200m southwest of Pollapooka I. A small stream sinks in the floor of the depression and **can** be followed underground for 5m before the passage becomes too narrow. The water is next seen in Poulballyelly”.* (C of CC&SG, 2003), p85, (Caves Mid-West Ireland, 2019, p101).

A1e. A tight squeeze gives access to a rift 7 metres deep. A constricted streamway may be followed downstream for 3 metres and upstream for 10 metres. Bulldozing has now filled the site with earth. (Caves of Co. Clare, 1980, page 69).

Goat Hole. Goat Hole was the largest of many small holes on the shale margin of northwest Slieve Elva. It was once possible to enter a small chamber at 5 metres depth, but the site has been completely hidden under bulldozed earth. (Caves of Co. Clare, 1980, page 69).



Start of systematic search pattern of Pollapooka II and A1e.

29th July Sliabh Eilbhe Project
Cheg Chester

14:00. Cloud 100%; heavy showers: Wind W, F7: Visibility <10Nm: Ground wet: Rain Gauge 11mm: The Plan: obtain ITM for Poulfantaiseach and attempt water trace between Halliday's Hole and Pluais Gabhar. Made a solution of 100grams of Green Fluorescein and three litres of water. Prior to deployment, visited Poulfantaiseach, recorded its ITM, standing on the west side of the centre of the rift; ITM 514520 x 705060. Back to Halliday's Hole, introduced the dye into a surprisingly small stream, into the small pool directly beneath the stream; (14:42). Retreated to Pluais Gabhar, some hundred metres away, and fifteen metres lower. Expected to see the dye clearly, and swiftly, not so. After an hour, nothing. Visited the pool in the base of the excavated rift, nothing there either. Muddied the water, no flow observed, though stream flow audible beyond the stall in the rift, and from upstream, from the surface hole, in the depression below which the stream is visible. To avoid hearing flow from that source, CC sat in the hole to stem any sound emitted. Should have prepared detectors, but, thought to swiftly pursue this task, following recent rainfall. Have three hundred grams of fluorescein remaining; will also buy some red to assist the tracing. The stream seen in Pluais Gabhar depression appeared of a larger volume than that seen earlier in Halliday's. Have recently begun to suspect the stream appearing to sink in the muddy hollow, MQ00, adjacent the boundary, is the one flowing to Pluais Gabhar, rather than that from Halliday's? Need to sort the entrance rift in Poulballyelly to install detectors in the inlet. Need to close down Considine's.

NB. Returning to the Hilux, scrutinized the area where the large depression containing Goat Hole, enters the slightly smaller depression to the northwest. Here on the left, (SW), is an area which is a sink. Am unsure whether its A1e or Pollapooka II. The owner of this land remains, as yet, unknown.

31st July Drone software finally uploaded. Two spare batteries arrived and a spare controller lead.

31st July Carnane rain gauge for July.

01/07/23	16	02/07/23	2	03/07/23	11	04/07/23	7
05/07/23	3	06/07/23	7	07/07/23	36	08/07/23	3
09/07/23	21	10/07/23	17	11/07/23	31	12/07/23	0
13/07/23	01	14/07/23	3	15/07/23	53	16/07/23	8
17/07/23	13	18/07/23	11	19/07/23	away	20/07/23	away
21/07/23	away	22/07/23	away	23/07/23	away	24/07/23	49
25/07/23	0	26/07/23	4	27/07/23	31	28/07/23	3
29/07/23	11	30/07/23	3	31/07/23	23	Total	319

Showing July total, 49mm fell between 19th and 24th July whilst at Sarah Farr's wedding.

6th August; 08:16, (1945). Hiroshima

7th August Grant support approved to cap Considines and fence Poulfantaiseach.

7th August Poulfantaiseach (ITM 514520 x 705059)
Solo

15:45. Cloud 100%; Wind W, F1: Visibility <25Nm: Ground dry-ish: Rain Gauge 0mm: The Plan: dig. Delighted to be actually digging the site. Recent spate of recovery's, protracted searches and rescues demanded a lot of attendance. Loaded up with two, one metre lengths

of corrugated iron, a small kibble, old short spade and pack of assorted hand tools. Flies a pest; perhaps a smoke brazier for the surface operative. On arrival noted further migration of bog material into the rift: the original floor some two feet under this crap. Water entering either end of the rift, from the blanket bog, seems more than first imagined, that or the bog movement is an inexorable gravitational process. Managed to push down the four vertical fence posts, used as shoring, located behind the previously installed horizontal stemples, into the porridge beneath. Also managed to bend the twenty inch wide, (500mm), corrugated iron sheets to fit between the rift walls, pushing the lower sheet down the shoring, reaching almost level with the top of previously seen bedding; installed the second. Behind which was created a decent enough area for spoil. Began to dig out the porridge, casting it up and over the shoring into the gap behind. Welly depth of the porridge hindering any smooth movement. Two hours moved a lot of the semi-liquid spoil into the prepared area. Opening the horizontal bedding that then accesses the narrow vertical joint. Further digging exposed a large boulder; at this time, prior to more spoil removal, the cross joint, on which the rift is formed, may continue down, parallel to the obvious narrow rift 1.5m west. Finished off the session clearing more spoil from the bedding; issues may arise with the spoil deposited in the rift, as the bedding may extend south, beneath or close to, the stacked spoil; vertical stemples should contain this potential issue. En-route to the Hilux noted had missed securing one fencepost on the long fence; twat. Need materials to prepare a stance for the hauler; the porridge now level with the top of the present shoring too soft to stand on. Extending the shoring upward will immediately provide almost three cubic metres of spoil storage capacity. Hours, 3.

9th August; 11:02, (1945)

Nagasaki

9th August Poulfantaishach
Solo

17:15. Cloud 5%, thin layer sea fog: Wind S, F1: Visibility <25Nm: Ground damp: Rain Gauge omm: Temp≈22°C: The Plan: clear the foliage. Armed with saw and loppers, began to cut away the overhanging foliage; found briar and barbed wire entwined. About a metre length of vegetation removed before spragging above the rift required. The very edge of the west side of the rift is close to the line of the old fence. To add bulk placed most of the cuttings in this area of the remain bushes. Less flies. Hours digging; 1.5, (4.5).

Enroute to the Hilux assessed possible sites of Pollaphuca II and A1e, the area to the nor-nor-west of Pluais Gabhar appears the most likely, where the ground slopes away gently conducting rainfall to a choked, linear gully, which is aligned NE/SW. Recorded ITM's for either site, each presently anonymous; Site One ITM 514568 x 705197, Site Two ITM 514576 x 705220. Conducted GPSR test at road corner/junction between Pouldubh North and Poulballiny.

Confirmed accuracy; ITM 513708 x 704008 and GIS digital mapping system within one metre.

A1e?	ITM 514580 X 705220	(5 th Feb 2021)
Site	ITM 514455 x 705205	During search for PP2
PP2?	ITM 514722 x 705291	(26 th Dec 2020) too close to PPI
PP2?	ITM 514723 x 705293	(21 st Jan 2021) too close to PPI
Site One	ITM 514568 x 705197	(9 th Aug 2023) = A1e?
Site Two	ITM 514576 x 705220.	(9 th Aug 2023) = PP2?

16th August Poulfantaishach
Paul McGrath

14:00. Cloud 20%: Wind NE, F1: Visibility <35Nm: Ground damp: Rain Gauge omm: Temp≈20°C: The Plan: more site preparation. A break between protracted searches. Carried up more wriggly tin and timber. Installed one piece of timber to support two vertical fence posts as shoring, inserting a section of wriggly tin; offering a further square metre for stack-

ing spoil. Should volume increase spoil stacking will be become problematic, it may need scattering over the surface of adjacent moorland. The immediate surface area around the pot is too suspect to take additional weight. Found lumps of migrating heavy clay had collapsed into rift entrance, fortunately onto the existing shoring. Cut away more foliage, just enough to enable hauling, leaving plenty up against the fencing. Attempted assess the rift walls for establishing a hauling platform mount. Perhaps install stemples, and erect the platform of them? The elderly spade; ex Fraggie Rock, has all but folded, replacement needed. The rift is formed on two joints. The porridge and crap at the base, is of unknown depth, though diminishing. The temporary shoring should accommodate a further cubic metre, perhaps enough to enable accurate assessment of the development. Either way, it was witnessed to emit a significant draught, from the obvious narrow cleft, offset about a metre west of the rift entrance. Into McDermott's, encountered a nice Microbrewery Ale from Connemara; cracking pints.

4 hours (7)



View North, Poulfantaiseach

18th August Lisdoonvarna clinic

Following blood tests, spectre of the big C threatens reappear; scans to follow.

19th August Considine's Cave – Coolagh River Cave (B9a)

Solo

11:50. Cloud 100%: Wind SW F6/8: Visibility <15Nm: Ground wet: Rain gauge 37mm: Large stream. The Plan: collect a ladder to deploy at B9a. The driveway to the house, adjacent the dig, now has security gates installed. Called JN for access, invited over for tea, explained the intended closure procedure; supplied with security codes. The path across the field is still visible, just. Collected the "spare" eight foot ladder, short spade and TB's small pick; foliage slowly recolonizing. Checked security codes worked; grand. B9a is located in PV's field,

2023

which is now producing a lot of lush grazing, from its previous barren appearance. Managed to lift the ladder over the pipe and guide it down, to rest on a projection. Requires securing. Took photos.



Views of Coolagh River Cave entrance B9a

20th August (23:10). Permanent eighteen years.

21st August New Hole, (Dig), Sliabh Eilbhe Project.
Solo

14:50. Cloud 100%: Wind S, F6: Visibility <10Nm: Ground wet: Showers, Rain gauge 8mm.
The Plan: Search for the site found February 2012. CC and PMcG away. Parked at Faunarooska Cross; armed with camera and GPSR, stepped onto Queally's land behind their old

cabin. Memory faulty, as happened the previous attempt. After an hour found the site, nowhere near where imagined; much closer to the present area of interest than believed; twat. Foliage in rift much denser than previous; being later in the year. The opening is an undercut, choked with debris, easy enough to dig; not too much infrastructure required, nice. During initial search, found two more, unrecorded sinks, recorded same. These are steep sided holes, some two/three metres deep. Situated among the pasture they are unguarded, cattle trails pass close to both. Time pressure meant focusing on the Plan, and not wandering hereabouts, for the moment.



The New Hole, (Dig), is developed similar to the entrance of Pollaphuca III. Adjacent, several surface flow channels, are obscured beneath deep, lush, grass and heathers. Two channels are of particular interest, when considering the areas drainage patterns. All appear to flow NW. Its depth from the limestone surface, west side is five metres, it was taking a very small stream.

Tested accuracy of GPSR at first gate post, ITM 513744 x 704684 Test, correlates precisely with digital GIS mapping.

Sink 1	ITM 514311 x 705045
Sink 2	ITM 514322 x 705058
New Hole	ITM 514461 x 705150 (Poulbruíon?)

22nd August Shannon Aerfort

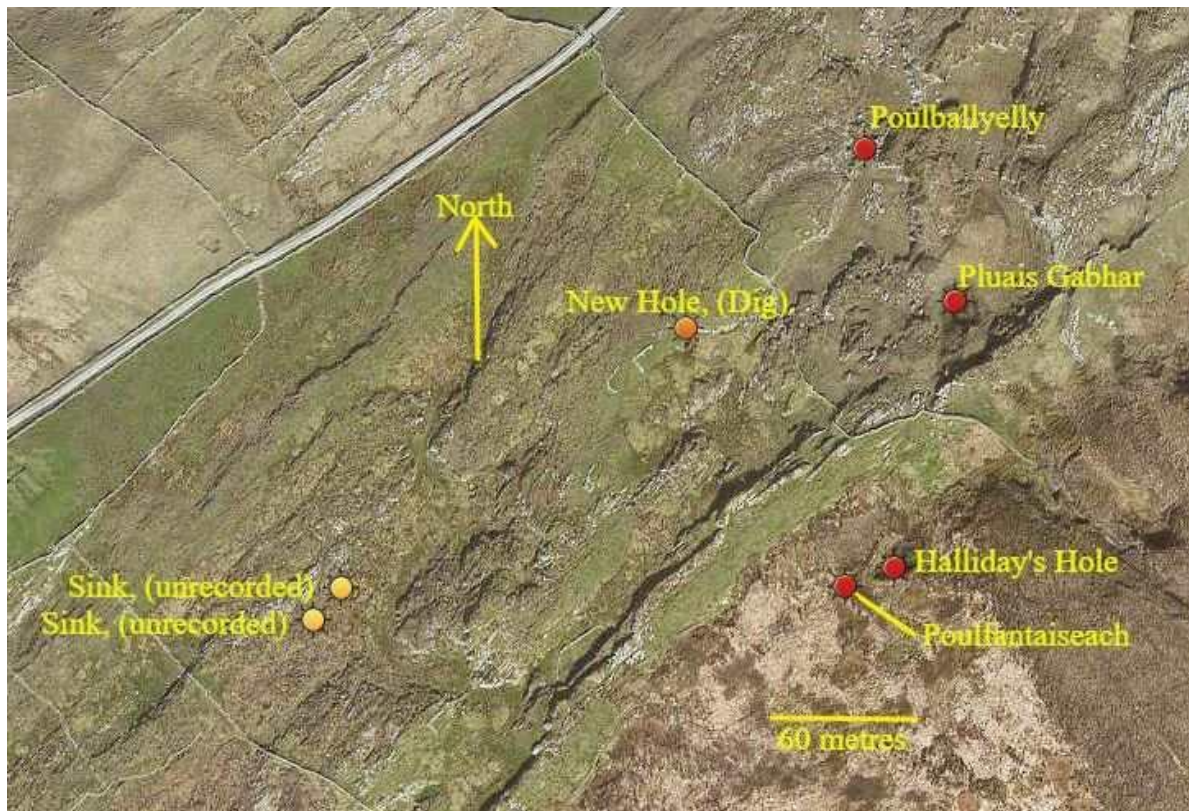
Collected Cobbett; 20:55. En-route home called into O'Riains Bar, Corofin, gem of a bar.

23rd August Coolagh River Cave (entrance B9a).

James Cobbett

11:45. Cloud 30%: Wind S, F2: Visibility 25Nm: Ground wet: Rain gauge 9mm. The Plan: install and secure ladder. Made use of JC's supervising experience. Carried a pile of kit over to the entrance; the back filling, to be conducted by PV, not completed, yet. Cleared clay deposit from the protruding limestone. Set ladder directly onto the limestone, a secure base. Drilled both the ladder and pipe, used 16mm galvanized bolts to secure ladder to pipe. JC's assis-

tance immensely useful, able to hand tools etc. Without an extra pair of hands, an awkward, solo, task; even so the job took two hours. Water levels at least a metre lower than previous visit. This privately undertaken task now complete. To the Irish Arms; Soup, Guinness and pints of Miwadi, good grief.



Relative position of Poulbruíon and new sinks, with project sites.

24th August Caherconnell Cashel – Kilcorney Valley.

James Cobbett

11:30. Cloud 30%: Wind S, F2: Visibility 25Nm: Ground wet: Rain gauge omm. The Plan: visit site of 2023 excavation. Meandered toward Caherconnell, taking in various sites, from which JC asked numerous questions. Quizzed on the souterrain study, astutely; satisfyingly so. At Caherconnell introduced JC to management, picked up the key and showed the back-filled site.

Whilst there JC conversed with “Iron Founders”, setting up their “Early Medieval” kilns. Steered conversation to getting JC invites back on Saturday afternoon, when serious work will be on display.

25th August Irish Arms, Lisdoonvarna.

Peter (Ratarse) Webb, Gill Webb, Judy Thompson, Paul Thompson, Cheg Chester, Pauline Cronin, James Cobbett

Reunion in the Irish Arms; delightful to see all from Panamá, Australia, Derbyshire and Doolin.

26th August Cahercommaun

Pete, (Ratarse) Webb, Gill Webb, Paul Thompson, Judd Thompson, James Cobbett.

12:00. Cloud 95%: Wind NW, F6: Visibility <10Nm: Rain Gauge omm: Showers: Ground wet. The Plan: conduct visit to the high status cashel of Cahercommaun for the visitors. Overcast conditions, deteriorated to showers, managed to explain a good percentage of the areas story. Into Vaughan’s Bar, Kilfenora; a shadow of its former self.



Pipe kept below shoulder should lid/cover ever be required.



Ladder secured to allow maximum room for two people handling a stretcher.

27th August Caherconnell Iron Smelting Festival – Considine’s Cave, (South End)

10:30. Caherconnell Iron Smelting Festival

James Cobbett

Invited return to watch the actual smelting; JC in deep conversation, quizzing the Iron Workers on various aspects. Encountered Kate Lavender-Duncan, much chat of her MA course; spoke of potential Mesolithic presence on the upper slopes of Sliabh Eilbhe: Cracking time.

Considine’s Cave, (South End)

Cheg Chester, Lenny, Smith, James Cobbett

14:00. Cloud 40%: Wind W, F4: Visibility <30Nm: Rain Gauge 7mm: Ground wet: medium stream. The Plan: commence closure procedure. CC began to trim away errant foliage, PC lifelined LS down the shaft to clear all remaining items. CC then ran the generator and got the winch going, after its term of inactivity; minor issues of stuck bits. A superb bonus was having the presence of LS, to remove the phone line, signal line, signal box, shaft intermediate light box, shaft lower light, lifeline return rope, hauling travel line and hose pipe. Aided by JC, all wire coiled and packed for transporting back up hill to the Hilux. The shaft is now cleared of digging items and associated clutch. Ready to strip out the fixed ladders and staging. Nice.

Hours 12 (3392), Southend (2340), Kibbles o (6754), Nets o (929), Total lifts 7691

28th August Doolin Pier

James Cobbett

11:30 Approached by council worker, unannounced, no name proffered. Explained unknotting the life buoy lines, demonstrated how to lay the draw line for swift deployment. His comment stating such attention had stopped following the removal of life guards, and to the question who was now responsible was ... we are, I look to see the red rings are there, I don’t look inside!

28th August Shannon Aerfort

15:00. Dropped JC at departures; all flights cancelled because UK air traffic control broken??

29th August Souterrain Project, Quarry, (CL010-213---), Fahee North

James Cobbett

14:00. Cloud 80%: Wind NW, F4: Visibility 25Nm: Rain Gauge 0mm: Ground Karst. The Plan:

Examine hewn grave slabs. Shown the site by Nick Geh, 21st June 2023. Could only find the two closest the house; the raised grave slab eluded the search. The rushed visit meant forgot several items required to accurately survey the slabs. Three sites were recorded, and need more work.

Grave slab (1). ITM 528870 x 699248: Length 2.45, Width 1.2m, Depth ≈0.13m: (One tonne).

Grave slab (2). ITM 528877 x 699255; Length 2.07m, Width 1m, Depth ≈0.15m: (0.83 tonne).

Slab excavation site, (potential), ITM 528840 x699278, an estimated area of 15m².

These two slabs are some ten metres apart; NE/SW bearing between 226°/046°. The slab, closest the house is thirty metres away, bearing 235°/055°. Both are at an altitude of ≈120m. Could not find the slab raised on blocks nor the O’Brien slab: need contact NG. Found three areas, adjacent exposed bedding of a depth consistent with the two slabs. They appear to be the dressing areas of the slabs before transportation. Such industry may be applied in principle to the production of souterrain lintels. Photos taken.

30th August Shannon Aerfort

2023

James Cobbett

Delayed flights, Europe/worldwide; NATS Air traffic control system failure appears corrected. Dropped James, 05:35. Waited until take off confirmed of this rebooked flight.



Grave slab 2.45m x 1.2m x 0.13m: ranging rods = 0.1m sections, 29th Aug



Area of slab extraction and dressing: ranging rods = 0.1m sections, 29th Aug

August Rainfall, from Carnane rain gauge, elevation \approx 450ft/130m

01/08/23	6	02/08/23	2	03/08/23	2	04/08/23	3
05/08/23	13	06/08/23	3	07/08/23	0	08/08/23	0
09/08/23	0	10/08/23	3	11/08/23	7	12/08/23	2
13/08/23	away	14/08/23	away	15/08/23	4	16/08/23	0
17/08/23	6	18/08/23	4	19/08/23	37	20/08/23	0
21/08/23	32	22/08/23	8	23/08/23	9	24/08/23	6
25/08/23	0	26/08/23	7	27/08/23	0	28/08/23	1
29/08/23	2	30/08/23	0	31/08/23	14	Total	142

31st August (2008) (00:04)

Lost Tony Jarratt

31st August (2000) (20:00)

Lost Father

2nd September Poulfantaiseach
Paul McGrath

12:30. Cloud 100%, cloud base \approx 400ft: Wind W, F1:Visibility 50m: Rain Gauge 8mm: The Plan: Dig. Carried up a plastic pallet, replacement spade and haul rope. PC climbed down to clear the vegetable collapse, and dig into the clays beneath. Steady progress lowered the floor some two feet, (600mm), into grey clay below. PMcG used the small six inch diameter kib-ble; swifter and easier to lift. Pieces of hard shale were regularly encountered as a channel was dug in the clay to convey water from two inlets into the eastern rift. This will allow for drier conditions digging into the western bedding. Base of the shaft is six metres below the moorland. Storage capacity remains for spoil behind the temporary shoring. Until the base of

the shaft is cleared, and better understood, this shoring will suffice. Need sort a frame for the pallet. Found MQ has installed an electric fence. Into McDermotts. 4 hours (11)

4th September Poulfantaiseach
Paul McGrath

13:30. Cloud 5%: Wind ENE, F4:Visibility >30Nm: Rain Gauge 0mm: The Plan: Dig. PC to digging, PMcG hauling. Careful study of the base of the rift infill, extending some 0.6mm below the shoring. A lower shoring stemple would require a western wall to affix to. Began to clear the debris in the west bedding, (?), area. Noted a spiders web dancing in an emerging breeze. Pushed head into the area to further note a chill draught. Steady progress cleared the approach of the rift looked down into, 6th January 2021. The clearance exposed a steep slope, of exposed shale pieces and clay debris. Viewed from this oblique angle a void, about one metre diameter was visible. A little stunned, delightedly informed PMcG. Continued to clear the approach. Found a large boulder some 90kgs. Perched over the open rift; exposed it, with PMcG managed to roll it back into the surface rift, pacing it in the cavity on the east side. At one point some fifty kilo of humic/clay material slumped burying PC's foot. Once cleared and packed to better see the next task, noted solid rock on several sides; the sense of adjacent narrow rifts, filled with clays arises. Issues regarding further digging, are what to do about the temporary shoring. Galvanized scaffolding and plastic pallets, to support the present spoil is one idea. Problem is accessing the cavity below will require digging the floor adjacent the present shoring to get to the wider section of the rift at a lower level, perhaps as much as two metres. Another session will provide a better idea of the area at the very top of the approach rift. 4 Hours (15)

NB. Perhaps install stemples in front of existing and galvanized tubing behind these? Rather, remove the spoil and grade a slope, with baffles to reduce migration.

6th Sept Poulfantaiseach

Circulated request to email list for help at Poulfantaiseach, proposing the 23rd Sept. Reply from, Matt R; (6th), Lenny, Ken J, RA, PMcG, CC.

10th September Poulfantaiseach
Solo

13:30. Cloud 100%, base 900ft: Wind W, F3:Visibility <150m: Rain Gauge 0mm: Ground dry: The Plan: carry up materials. Took two strip lengths of carpet, two 0.4m wide, lengths of 6mm ply, two ropes, two prepared kibbles, pulley and krabs. Slow ascent, into cloud, due to weighty pack and awkward shaped load. Assessed alignment for dragging the kibbles onto moorland. The grass etc. some two feet high; the carpet and plywood will reduce effort dragging it through the grass to the chosen dumping area. As the 6mm is too light for the span, to reach the digger, visited a pal and scrounged two lengths of 18mm plywood, (1 x 1.2m, 1 x 2.4m), 0.35m wide. Electric fence is reinstated. 3 hours, (18).

11th September Poulfantaiseach
Paul McGrath

13:00. Cloud 100%, base 900ft: Wind N, F2:Visibility 5Nm: Rain Gauge 4mm: Ground wet: The Plan: Dig. Carried two more pieces of narrow plywood up. Descended to assess permanent shoring options. Staring at the base of the temporary shoring, decided that it might be possible to install two lateral stemples across the lower area, just beneath the open bedding area, and build up a new face of shoring in front of the existing. Potentially meaning no need to remove the spoil stored behind temporary shoring. To check the assessment dug down, looking for solid rock, for a second stemple position, at a depth of some 0.25m found the

walls forming the intersection of the north/south – east/west rifts; continued to dig. PMcG patiently hauled the porridge, depositing it into the spoil area. Steadily removed the floor of liquefied mud, frustratingly encountering hard pieces of shale and increasingly larger lumps of limestone. PMcG drew attention to the liquefied spoil coming close to the top of the shoring. Continued until brim full, attempting to squeeze more in, by stacking/pouring it up the sides. Called PMcG to review progress, the collection of jammed boulders/flagstones in the approach rift removed. Revealing the rift did indeed widen as it descended. With PMcG stacking stones/shale pieces behind the stone pile in the north end of the entrance rift, continued to lower the floor. After five hours between them, had managed to clear enough spoil for a Plumber's chest to fit through: PMcG given the honour of first man. PC remained on watch, in case more slumping occurred of the exposed clay face. Whilst inside PMcG excavated back toward the entrance, stacking spoil in an alcove in the new stuff. It is a large squeeze...

Inside, the rift heads initially south, after several metres turning sharply west. The upper part of this rift is too tight to negotiate, as is the middle bit. At the first bend, the lower, streamway has a choke of several boulders, these can be removed, stacking in a small alcove above. The way on will be in the stream. From the vantage point the streamway seems to be in a bedding. By end of play, had lowered the rift floor, at the point of breakthrough, almost two metres. Draught cold, and constant. A lot of spoil was shifted; a dam cracking session. 10 hours (28)

18th September Poulfantaiseach

Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

13:00. Cloud 100%, showers: Wind SW, F4: Visibility 25Nm: Rain Gauge 3mm: Ground wet: The Plan: Dig. Met at the Cross, ferried team to the ruin. Bumped into MQ, informed him the photographs were framed and ready. Tempered desire with caution of the temporary shoring. First investigated where to place two permanent stemples near the base of the extant shoring; assessed and measured. Asked CC to monitor the shoring whilst below removing the boulders, previously seen from above. Took along a crow bar and eight pound sledge. At the pinch, at the second corner, PC stuck. Exited, and swapped places; PMcG sailed through, into the next section. The floor some metre or so lower, another half metre below this, the beginning of what appeared a bedding, with the narrow entrance joint meandering above it. Used the sledge to knock of a couple of lumps, but still no joy with the offending Lump, PC remained at this spot.

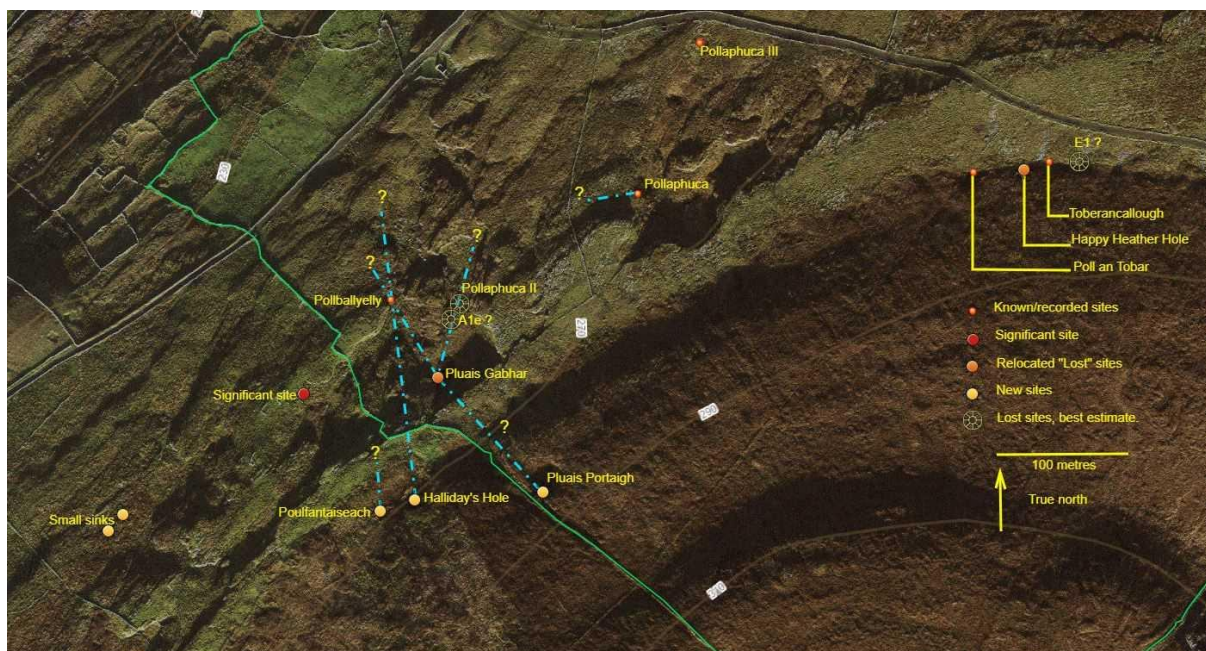


Image showing relocated “lost”, new and known sites.

The boulders in the floor were slowly exposed, as PMcG handed up pieces of shale and other lumps of rock for PC to stack in places various, the slurry running away. The first boulder released was 75kgs, from the elevated vantage point PC suggested digging a hollow behind it, and roll it in. Other boulders exposed were large, irregular, flat-ish lumps, their edges knocked off and reduced to manageable pieces, taken out, with difficulty, to the base of the entrance shaft. Sufficient room created, PMcG to slid into the wide bedding pushing the accumulated porridge ahead and anywhere he could. Some eight metres or so this western heading bedding intercepts a north heading bedding. This was followed for some four metres; PMcG returned calling out estimated measurements and descriptions. The beddings are not that tight, at the present limit the undulating roof, comes to within about 0.3m of the flat-ish floor, the floor consists of clay, silt and flat pieces of shale, taking a small stream. These beddings are maybe up to five metres wide, with a capacity for spoil to be stacked. Beyond today's limit PMcG believes the bedding continues for, at least, a further six metres. Throughout, the bedding floor descends at a gentle rate. The constant, strong, chill draught delighted the cooling team. “The Lump” need be removed as the next task, urgently. Tools required to dig along the beddings. Arrange meet on the 23rd September will fit the stemples and remove some, not all, of the spoil dumped at surface to create a less steep, unstable mass. Entering and exiting is turning the floor into a liquid slurry, which is migrating downwards. To stem this horizontal timber braces need be secured across the passage at floor level to reduce erosion. A really cracking session.

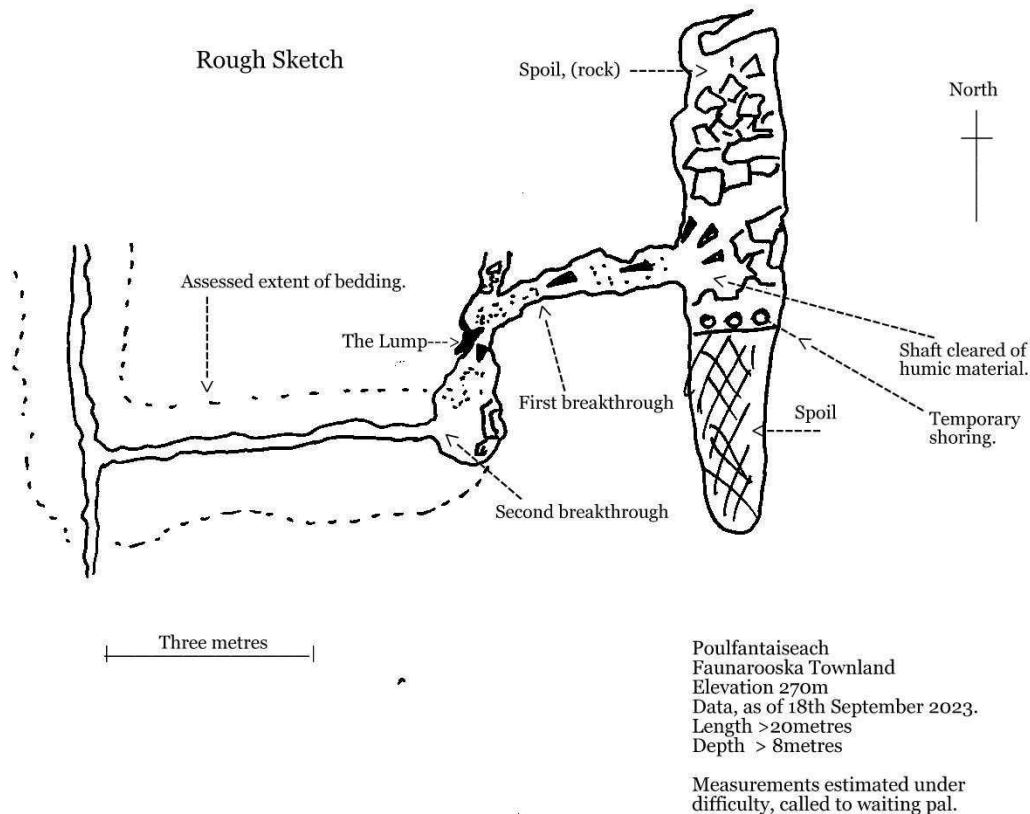
NB. Reflecting on the consistent strength of draught over recent visits. Cannot but help feel, or imagine, it is so very similar to that experienced digging Pollaphuca with the L.A.D.S, on the 5th April 1986. Most of last night thought of the open wide bedding with its stream washed debris floor; such promise beckons, if only.

Recent upgrading of the National archaeological website offers improved elevation clarity plotting sites. Though at a slightly lower elevation Pollaphuca is **the** major conduit for runoff from the northern flanks of Sliabh Eilbhe.

A check of the surface jointing, on archaeology.ie historical monument viewer, shows surface jointing aligned between 018° - 198°, (TRUE) and 014° - 194° (TRUE) The exposed limestone surface measured is the limestone terrace, 200 metres NE of Poulfantaiseach, which overlooks Pluais Gabhar.

hours (37)

9



19th September

Ordered two (2) galvanized 50mm scaffold poles, from Guerin and Considines of Liscannor.

20th September B9a, (Polldonough South, Coolagh River Cave)

Niamh McNamara

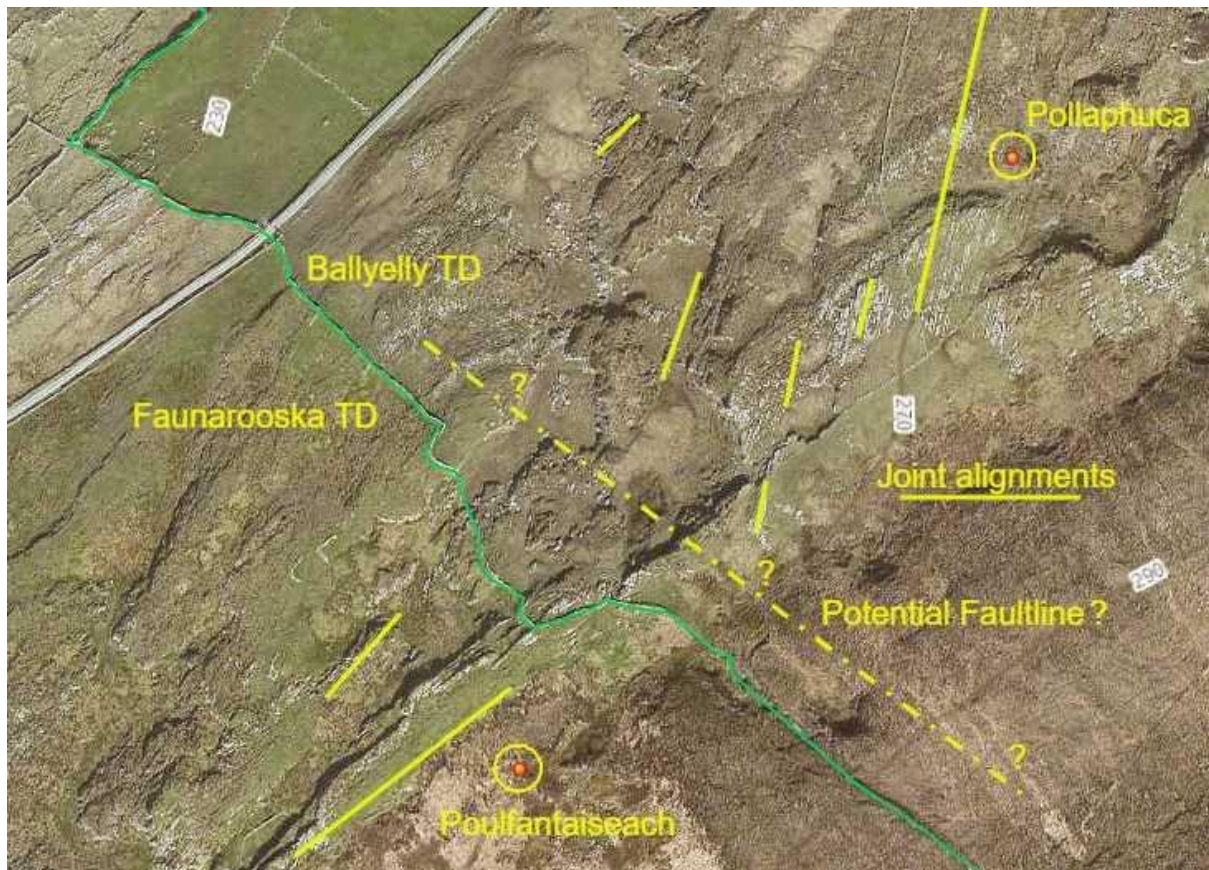
Cloud 75%; showers: Wind NW, F4/5: Visibility 20Nm: Gauge 31mm: Ground sodden. Passing noted reappearance of PV's digger. Could see PV had levelled the hollow with the field surface, and that an adjacent area, where rainwater pooled, now had a French drain dug up to the piped entrance. NM McN shown around area as part of her transition year work experience.

22nd September Poulfantaiseach

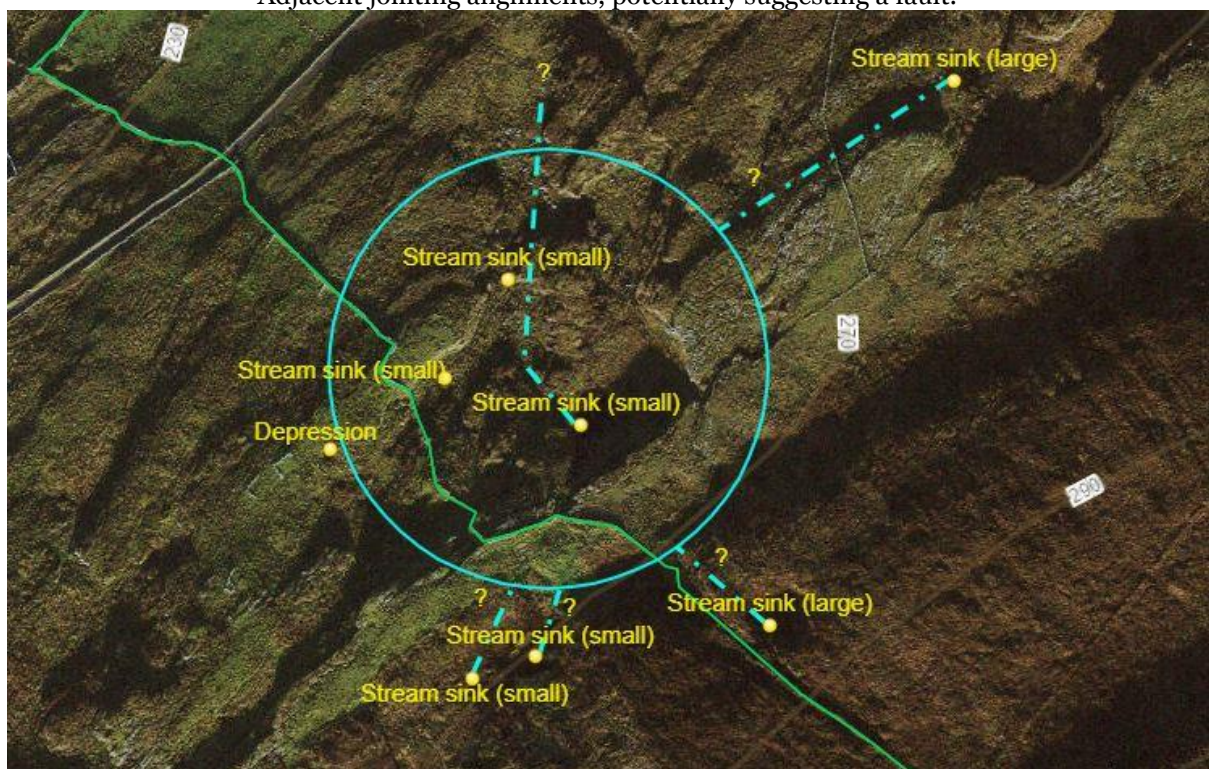
Solo

15:45. Cloud 50%; showers: Wind W, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Gauge 0mm: Ground sodden. The Plan: steal a march on tomorrow. Nipped down to the merchants and picked up one of the galvanized scaffold tubes, promised as being delivered yesterday. Loaded up with 2 x two metre lengths of scaffold tube, stemple bolts and washers, laser level, Hilti drill and assorted drill bits. Evidence of the 74mm of rain since last Monday; the place washed clean. Lowered the kit, and began fitting the lower stemple. Much phaffing about getting it level, aligned and with just enough room for loose material support behind. Further evidence of recent heavy rainfall; dozens of trickles from the roof,. Drenching the operator. Needed to redrill the western 16mm hole, having cocked up its precise position, having partially obscuring the laser

lines. Finally sorted, fitted the upper stemple; booth will provide all the lateral containment for the reduced spoil pile, and handy steps.
Hours 3 (40).



Adjacent jointing alignments, potentially suggesting a fault.



Concentration of drainage.

23rd September Poulfantaíseach

Lenny Smith, Paul McGrath, Cheg Chester

10:00. Cloud 75%: Wind NE/E, F6, gusting F8: Visibility 5 - 25Nm: Gauge 0mm: Ground wet. The Plan: reduce spoil behind temporary shoring in preparation for permanent shoring, perhaps remove "The Lump". Changing, encountered Patsy Corruan, voicing his concern over caving with an impending storm; assured him otherwise, exchanged phone numbers, he remembered showing CC and PC Formoyle West Cave, a while ago. Carried up, more scaffold tube, Hilti drill and assorted bits. PC went below to prepare "The Lump" for an imminent departure. CC prepared his box of magic. LS, PMcG began preparing removal of spoil from behind the temporary shoring; spreading same evenly across the landscape. CC descended to deal with "the Lump, cleaving it into five pieces; its remains taken to surface.



View Nor-nor-east upper third of the temporary shoring cleared.

PC then prepared a lower knob of protruding rock, this too CC returned to deal with; these bits also brought to surface. Noting the amount of debris washed in, reducing the size of the first breakthrough point, managed to install a stone "weir" to stem material migration, down into the Crawl area. Such weirs need installing toward the entrance shaft. Noted that much of the debris washed in, originated from below the upper thin bed; water from the northern side had flowed along this to cascade down the now exposed face. This needs attending to. The grey clay is not stable, appearing to dissolve on contact with water and passing cavers. Viewed from the beginning of the Crawl out to the entrance shaft, this section of rift has been filled with clay and shale debris of a depth, at least of 1.5m. The amount of debris at the beginning of the crawl needs stabilizing, likely will fit a stemple and pile debris behind, as this is enroute of heavy rainfall. Could also be used as a step, for the vertically challenged. Weather chill, easterlies bringing minor spits of rain. With U/G work completed, the four focused on removing the cubic metre of porridge behind the shoring. Little draught felt today. For 19:00 Met Eireann shows a pressure of 1004, ahead of Storm Nigel, which has a centre of 959 millibars. Spoil lowered to the top of the middle portion of the shoring. Sug-

gested plan is to install a section of shoring a metre back from the present line, this will control/stabilize effects of water off this area of moorland. To extend the permanent shoring up another two, or three stemples, backed with plastic pallets and plastic voting posters, to stop the porridge squeezing through. A digging fund has been set up, all agreed to put in. To McDermott's, a cracking session.

Hours 18 (58)



Poulfantaiseach, entrance shaft, lower poles, the new shoring line.



View Nor-nor-east, of boulder pile beneath main stream entry point



Lenny Smith, Paul McGrath, Cheg Chester.

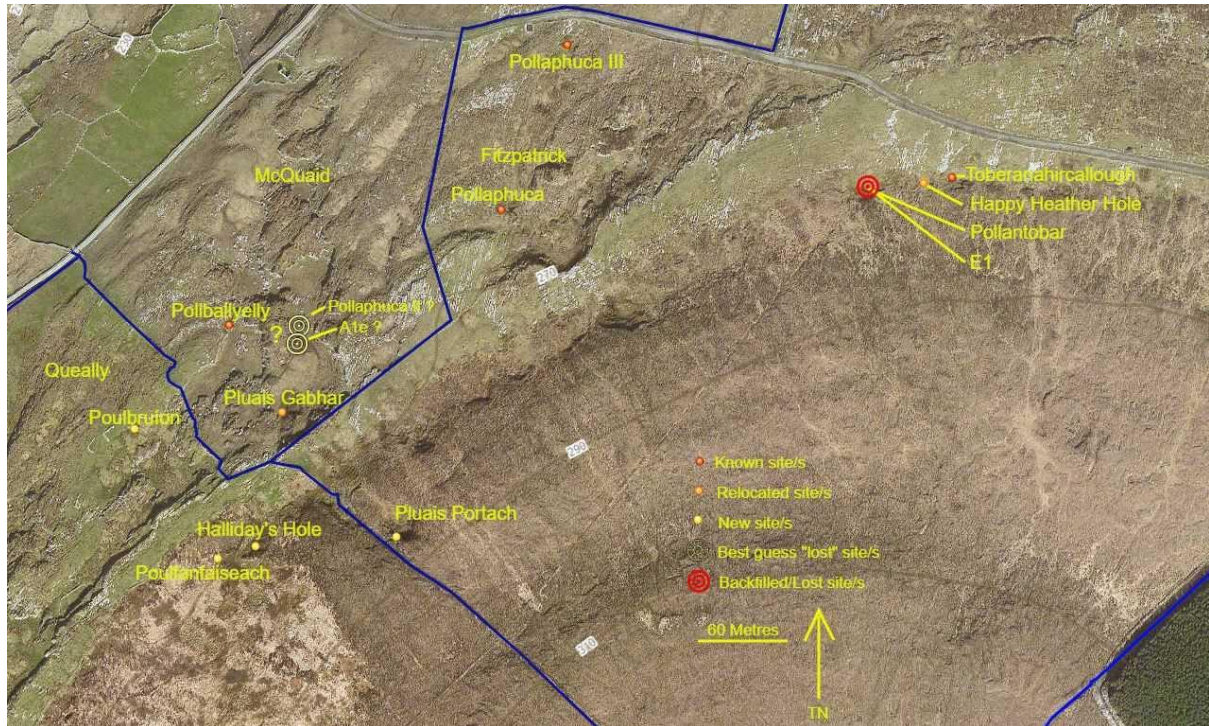
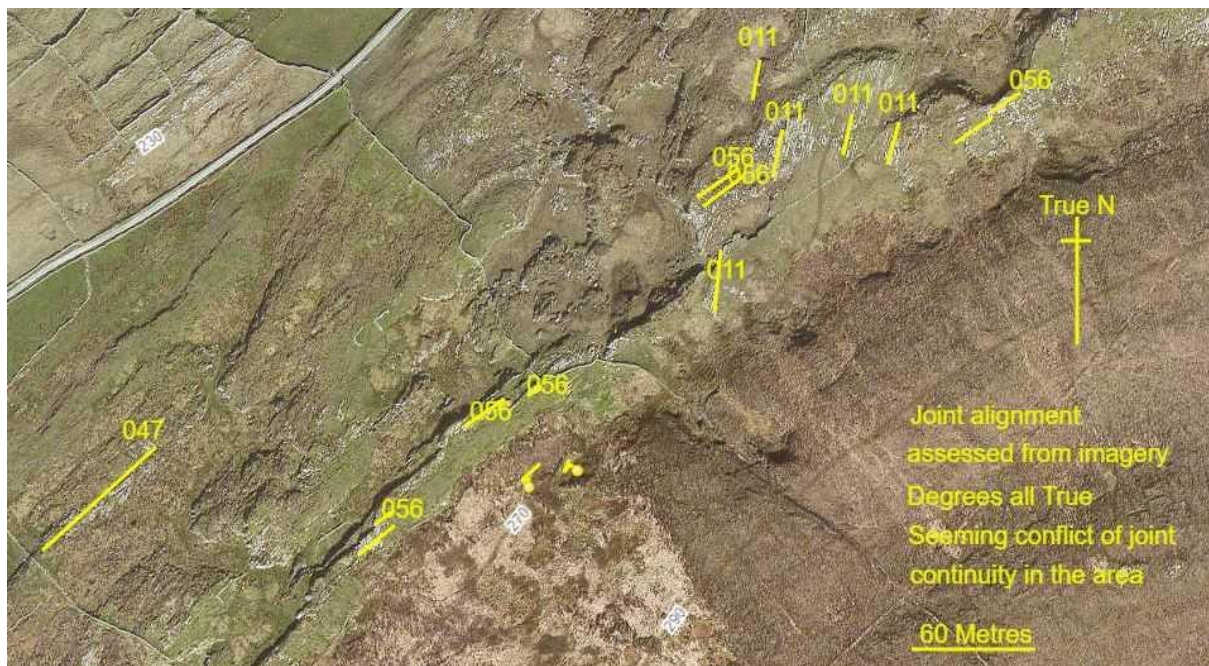


Image showing “lost” and “best guessed locations, thus far, Poulbruion and E1.



Joints shown with degrees, suggesting significant disturbance, a fault?

28th September Considine's Cave

CC, Colin Bunce, Paddy Griffin, Paul Murphy, PC

18:00. Cloud 90%; threat of heavy showers: Wind S, F6/F8: Visibility <15Nm: Ground sodden: Gauge 7mm. The Plan: Following invites, prior to closure, only three takers. Arranged meet at 18:00. CC gave a guided tour of the site, explaining its history and rigid, safe working practices. All appeared to enjoy the occasion, each descending to see the place. PM, suggesting he speak with a pal, who may be interested in filming the place for posterity. CC suggest-

ing holding off removing the infrastructure until “pals” intentions known via PM. Recovered plastic pallet (1.2m x 0.8m), for Poulfantaiseach.

29th September (1973) Lost Sulo Sulonen, (Pegasus), to Eldon Hole

29th September Poulfantaiseach
Solo

18:00. Cloud 60%: Wind SW, F3/4: Visibility 25Nm: Ground sodden: Gauge 18mm. The Plan: install shoring stemples. Took along Hilti drill, drill bits, Tony Boycotts battery mini grinder, assorted bits. Noted the place clean washed, again; the stream entering the rift at an angle through foliage, discharging into the centre of the rift/dig. Though much reduced, remaining flow sprayed the entire lower work area; this will mean a cape for the Hilti drill. Started with the topmost shoring. After a stupid mistake, relocated both 16mm drill holes. Second mistake; left two stemple studs on the bench in the workshop. Fitted the top stemple and drilled both holes for the lower. An awkward session trying not to drop drill etc. into the morass. Moved the wriggly-tin to behind this shoring to avoid the loose fill migrating. Supported with fence posts. Took bearing along the “west” side of the rift entrance; 052°Mg. Took another along the start of the entrance passage; ≈305°Mg. Cut the second stemple tube; ready to fit. There remains a spare 37 inches. Enough for, at the very least, one of the longer stemples in the shaft. Entry and exit needs something, a handline? Timber spar left in as temporary handrail. From below, two stemples should suffice for permanent shoring supports. Thoughts turned to Sulo whilst walking back to the Hilux. Hours 3 (61).

NB.

To attempt insert plastic pallets behind the stemples will be a fiddle, and take a lot of effort. Will likely use 6mm reinforcing mesh; strong and can cut to shape and size.



2023

Before re-siting the topmost shoring stemples; 29th September



After re-siting, awaiting lower stemple fixings; 29th September.



Showing fixings for both upper stemples, 30th Sept.30th September Poulfantaiseach

Solo

14:00. Cloud 100%, base 600ft: Wind SE, F4: Visibility 0 – 0.5Nm: Ground sodden: Rain gauge 2mm. The Plan: continue preparing for permanent shoring. Bit of a struggle with drill, grinder, assorted ironmongery and pallet. Cloud played tricks; visibility often dropped to zero. Looking into the rift, heard a lot of trickling/gurgling among the undergrowth to the east all flowing in the southern end, behind the upper part of the shoring, destabilizing the loose fill. Fitted the lower stemple, dug beneath where the pallet was to slide down vertically into position, just behind the stemples; minor issue. Where an east rift wall rib slopes in quite swiftly the pallet is not quite up against the stemples, this space is not critical and can be easily fitted with a spacer. Climbed down, balanced on the stemples to work. Used a level to accurately establish both upper stemple positions; after several false starts, experiencing difficulties with water flow. Small trickles and associated splashes swiftly soaked everything. Even though deployed in a carrier bag the Hilti got wet, yet managed to drill all four 16mm holes. The finished stemples, directly above one another will allow a shoring backing to be slide down vertically from above to below the lowest stemple. At the bottom, where the shoring is fitted under the west wall, a smaller section need be fitted first to contain the spoil in the rift from creeping/migrating into the now open bedding. The three metre ladder, once ex-Poulacapple, ex-Considine's is really needed to descend to the ledge of the present shoring. Hours 3 (64)

NB.

Worth noting is archaeology.ie, new upgrade, show that Poulacapple Pot and Poulfantaiseach confirm suspicions they share a similar elevation; Poulfantaiseach 270m, Poulacapple ≈265m.



Shoring unstable overburden exposed to a significant, surface water, 30th Sept.

2nd October Gallarus Oratory, Cathair Deargáin Thuaidh, Co. Kerry
Pauline Cronin

At last, Gallarus, the only intact “boat shape” church remaining. Extant visitors soon left; a truly magnificent piece of building. To Cathair Deargáin Thuaidh, and souterrain, potentially two? From the grass condition, none ever visit this unusual ringfort and beehive hut cluster, the largest has the souterrain; alas flooded. Its entrance reduced in size, thanks OPW, quite

pointless for the researcher. To Little Italy for a meal, pleasantly surprised at the ambience, the food, the service, the food, cleanliness and the price. A real Gem.

3rd October Rahinnane Castle, Co. Kerry

Pauline Cronin

Located in an elevated position, the remains evidence to Cromwell's ire. The souterrain is invisible, no sign at all of its presence. At the farm two euro to park the motor and visit the castle.

4th October Dun Béag, Co. Kerry

Pauline Cronin

Managed to reach three score and ten. Visited Dun Béag, a 500BC "Iron Age" promontory Fort? The date based on a single piece of timber from the ditch. Unfortunately souterrain, indeed the entire area of the monument is secure behind a huge fence: well done the OPW, a pure disaster. Meal in Little Italy, Dingle; superb.



Cathair Deargáin Thuaidh, Co. Kerry ITM 440011 x 605630

6th October Poulfantaiseach

Cheg Chester

14:00. Cloud 100%, base 900ft: Wind S, F5/6: Visibility 15Nm: Ground sodden: Rain gauge, (after five days) 54mm. The Plan: continue preparing for permanent shoring. Carried up a short length of scaffold plus normal assorted tools etc. Quite a lot of water cascading into the rift from both ends. Minor phaffing finishing the last two horizontal stemples; second from

the top needs tightening with a narrow spanner. The mesh can be fitted in four sections. Starting its installation at the bottom will allow the partly filled entrance passage spoil to be backpacked behind said mesh and plastic boarding, to hold any porridge in place. Reviewed the point of entry to the passage, the source of debris originating from the “north” wall. This needs stabilizing. It will be possible to clear the debris accumulated at the beginning of the crawl and also pack this behind the forthcoming permanent shoring requiring a short haul. Photos taken. Hours 4 (68)



Shaft side of permanent shoring



Area between temporary and permanent shoring.



Spoil below/behind temporary shoring, note unsupported fence post ends.



View of shoring from below.



8th October Ivy Cottage restaurant, Fisherstreet.
Irish Coast Guard, Doolin Unit
Surprized by the Team and Pauline for a belated 70th birthday party; a cracking evening.

8th October Mihal Queally's Farm, (Poulfantaiseach)
Solo

Delivered the framed photos, to a delighted MQ. Whilst sat at the kitchen table, drinking tea, eating arán agus ím, swept back to the occasions, in so many such kitchens, with so many kind, pleasant, interested people. Quite the privilege to receive the trust of a farmer to wander his land and dig holes. A real Gentleman. Invited return, to view the stone fort behind his house.

8th October Lost Bret Gilliam

9th October Poulfantaiseach
Solo

14:30. Cloud 5%: Wind S, F2: Visibility 20Nm: Ground wet: Trickle from both streams: Gauge omm: Temp >20°C. The Plan: install steel mesh behind stemples. Plodded up with Hilti drill, Boycotts grinder, assorted tools, two pieces of reinforcing mesh and four plastic posters, for placing behind the mesh to stop the porridge flowing through. A fiddle, from start to finish; phaffing about, trying to insert the mesh behind the lower stemples. The mini grinder a joy, enabling cutting the mesh to fit the wall undulations. As the lowest stemple has a span of two metres, installed a 16mm support bolt, reducing the span to ≈one metre. Used heavy duty cable ties to secure 6mm mesh in position. Eventually completed task, alas the Hilti battery died; thought it was charged? Twat. There remains the half dozen twelve millimetre holes to be drilled and 12mm rebar supports inserted, upon which pieces of shale can be placed, upon which the shoring can be back filled with the accumulated debris in the entrance passage and "Waiting Room". Then, and only then, can the area directly above the entrance passage be considered secure to work beyond. LS likely about the 16th Oct, so want to

have the shoring ready to back fill by then.
Hours 2 (70)

11th October Gleninagh
Niamh MacNamara

Returning to Doolin, via the Bay, noted the cascades; not huge, but eye catching impressive. Once foliage appears to have been cleared - died back? The left hand, main volume, appearing from less dense foliage almost directly below the obvious gulley. Modern handy parking, where a two new field gates, just west of the cascades, have been created. Previous work strongly indicates their source as the Aghaglinny depression. Fed by a significant catchment area. In the sloping base of the depression is evidence of water flow sinking beneath the large boulder, adjacent/below Pollnabeaneag.

14th October Poulfantaiseach
Solo

10:40. Cloud 20%: Wind NW, F4, chill: Visibility 15Nm: Ground wet: Both streams a trickle: Rain Gauge 2mm: The Plan: complete 12mm holes for stonework base, behind shoring. Took along drill, Boycott's grinder, tools, drill bits, two metres of rebar and a narrow section of reinforcing mesh. Managed three 12mm hole before drill began to act up; no hammer action, played with it, but no go. Then the battery died. Fitted rebar and began to lay/insert stonework behind mesh, up to almost 200mm height; the thin shale an easy material to lay. Drew some stone from the entrance passage. Tried drill again, unit worked but issues from gear box; new unit required; bugger. Ideally a vertical support bar need be fitted the western end of the lower shoring. Two of the three temporary shoring, vertical fence posts are loose, so can be recovered the fence post in the bedding is now on the surface, (three spare posts). Hours 2 (72).

14th October TE 6-A36 Hilti Drill replacement

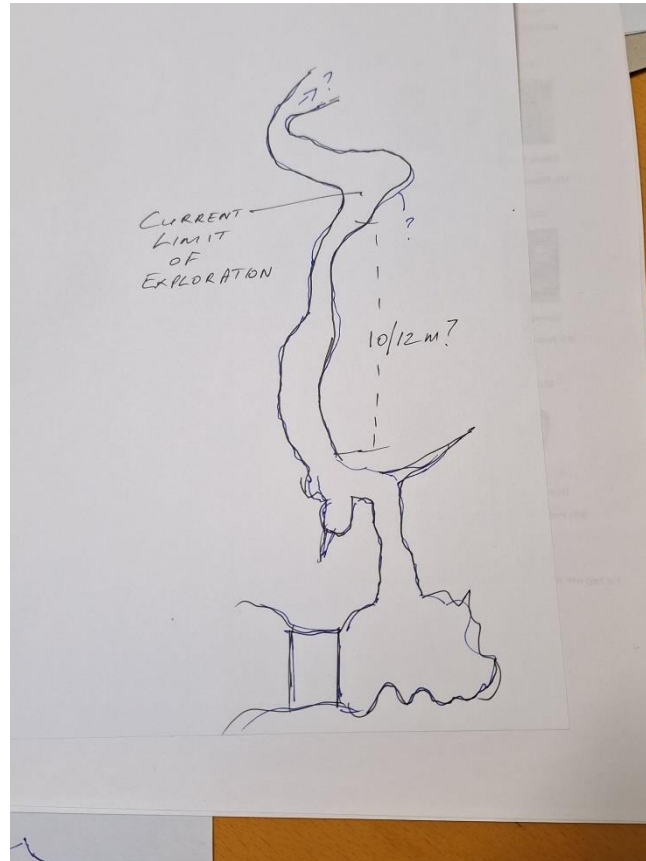
Reviewed available equipment and choice on eBay; poor quality and outrageously expensive. Taking the piss. A little desperate as no drill will hinder dig progress. Changed parameters, found an available unit in France. Postage 30 euro, no Brexit import tax, (averaging 70 euro). Drill, 1 x battery and charger; 280. If it works, perfect. Email, from Linda Wilson, scaffold clips have arrived, fifty for one hundred sterling.

16th October Poulfantaiseach
Paul McGrath, Lenny Smith

13:00. Cloud 20%: Wind NE, F2, chill: Visibility 30Nm: Ground wet: Each stream a trickle: Rain Gauge 1mm: The Plan: complete shoring framework/clear debris. Using the old Hilti drill quite successfully, PC installed the final vertical rebar support, fixed mesh to support the debris filled rift and two 12mm holes below the upper shoring to enclose a lower exposed area. The refurb'd battery did good, considering its previous performance. Meanwhile LS to the "Waiting Room", pressing along the crawl reaching an estimated 24m, where the passage turns and minor digging is required to pass. All then focused on building stonework to establish a sound base of the shoring. The area or cavity, behind the western end of the shoring, (from whence a chunk fell out), was back packed, to support the suspect, hanging mass above; mostly completed. PC to "the "Waiting Room" to assess debris; employed the small diameter No. 1 kibble, LS in the entrance passage, PMcG above, kibble swiftly moved. Spoil placed into the area behind the new shoring, at surface. Significant debris removed exposing part of the eastern wall, and undulations, nice. Stopped because the spoil area was brim full, PC entered the bedding clearing loose bits to either side, above suspected flood levels. Owing to a painful hand, turned and headed out. Noting, in the roof, the narrow, water worn rift meanders tightly, almost forming "horseshoes". Beneath, the crawl follows a much straighter route, with estimated angles around 30°. The passage appears formed as a rift. Where debris has partly filled, so the stream has

formed the crawl. A trench should exist below the compacted floor debris. The slope of the crawl is surprising, quite pronounced; maybe somewhere between $5/10^\circ$, so little chance of ponding during any required digging. PMcG to the end confirming LS observations. A cracking session. Heavy rain expect tomorrow during Storm Babet. Hours 12 (84)

Ever optimistic; the draught today as strong as previously witnessed: am actually excited.



Sketch by PMcG; 16th Oct.

18th October B9a, (Coolagh River Cave)

Niamh MacNamara

10:00. Cloud 100%: Wind E, F6, chill: Visibility 10Nm: Ground sodden: Rain Gauge 38mm: Storm Babet. The Plan: work experience. As part of NMcN's work experience diverted via Coolagh to see the effect of the 38mm of rainfall in the previous twenty-four hours. Polldonough South entrance bedding was submerged; the visible water level in B9a was considered a high stream, likely to create very little air space in the bedding directly below. A significant amount of run off from the recent drain installation was visible issuing from where the entrance pipe is set upon the limestone bedrock.

18th October Lost Michael, (Grease Can), Considine, (Owner Considine's Cave).

18th October Email: SUI Treasurer.

Grant approved for Considines grill to cover the -29m shaft, delighted.

20th October Hilti arrived from France, in appearance very clean, good condition with two batteries!



Michael Considine

21st October Poulfantaiseach

Paul McGrath

10:00. Cloud 75%, increasing: Wind N, F4, chill: Visibility 20Nm: Ground sodden: Rain Gauge 1mm. The Plan: dig the next minor obstruction. Serious surface evidence of water flow, partial collapse of the area above the upper shoring, minor slumping of the contents of the temporary shoring, such has arrived where PC had previously packed stone to accommodate this inevitable event. PMcG in front, PC in rear. As PMcG dug the debris obstacle, PC packed loose debris from the streamway, into every nook and cranny. Both swiftly soaked by the trickles and small stream. PMcG and his concave chest was swiftly through. PC remained digging at the debris to facilitate a real chest. Once through, found PMcG had passed an awkward bend, with protruding flake. To comfortably negotiate "Cadbury Corner" will require a chunk of it being removed. Four metres beyond, at the next bend, PMcG continued digging debris and packing it away to progress. Here the development assumes a minor

trench in the floor. Whilst PMcG enjoyed himself, PC backed out to the “Waiting Room” attempt make a sketch survey with bearings; a partial disaster, issues being fogged spectacles, crap note book, repeated shite on compass prism. PMcG reached a point where, the crawl is morphing into a rift, though some 0.3m metres wide, it is increasing in height, what appears an inlet, (a soil slope), is on the left, perhaps some three metres high. PC scrutinized the room available to pack debris: little enough. Both returned to surface, chilled. Spent time inserting more stone to reduce chances of the slumping spoil squeezing out; that done, the plastic sheet can be deployed and debris filling packed behind. A brief assessment of the data suggests strong, joint controlled development. To PMcG’s for debrief, tea and soup. The next plan is based around reducing spoil room. It appears that the rift is free of debris, the issue, how some of the Teams chests can reach this point. A fair amount of debris is deposited the first bend, by nature and man, this can be removed to outside, reasonably easily. Freeing the area for turning around, and stacking tools out of the stream to work on the Flake at “Cadbury Corner”. Any debris beyond this can then be put into “Sandbags”, several to be stacked at the cleared area. PMcG can see for a further three metres along the rift. Fine draught today.

Hours 4 (88)



Entrance passage, from entrance rift, view angle down, around 45°.



Lower level of permanent shoring

23rd October (2014)

Lost the Brother

23rd October Clare FM Radio.

10:45. Interviewed for forthcoming talk at X-PO, 26th October.

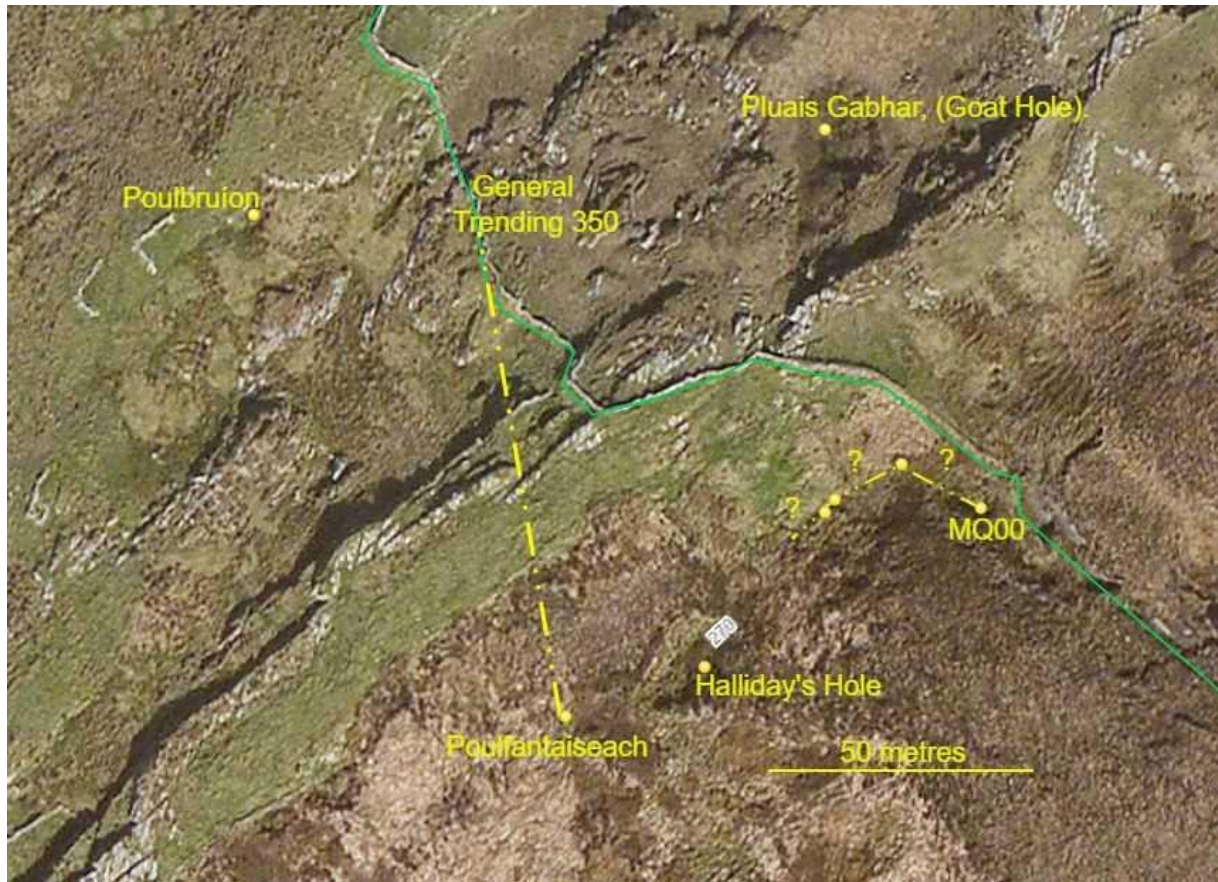
<https://soundcloud.com/clarefm/heritage-talk-at-x-po>

23rd October Poulfantaiseach – Poulbruíon – MQ00-MQ01-MQ02-MQ03/3a.

Paul McGrath

14:00. Cloud 100%: Wind E, F4; cold: Visibility 15Nm: Ground awash: Rain Gauge 9mm,(overnight), (between 09:00 and 13:00, 7mm rainfall). The Plan: assess after morning rainfall. En-route PMcG checked Pluais Gabhar; significant flow noted in the hole located some three metres before the actual entrance. Inside, at the base of the excavated rift, no flow was evident in the pool; though this may be because the stream course has changed during previous digging of the soft streambed debris. This needs checking. Mounting the upper terrace, (elevation 270m), significant water flow was heard. Decided check north to south. At sink MQ00, a large stream tumbled into the reed choked area. MQ01, a large stream was heard; likely that as at MQ00. MQ02, small stream heard. MQ03/MQ3a, large stream witnessed, likely from MQ00 and MQ01. Halliday's Hole, (MQ04), large stream. Poulfantaiseach, (MQ05), a decent stream issuing from the obscured gulley, in concern to this volume, water was flowing from the east slope, also emerging from a small conduit at the overburden/limestone boundary. Thoughts turned to Poulbruíon, an alternate dig, should winter rains delay removing the three obstacles within Poulfantaiseach. Autumn denuding the foliage, clearer view of the walls; it is a rift, a shaft. Poking about in the fill PMcG noted the west wall fluting descending a further two feet, below the floor, the east wall seemingly undercut. From below the sound of falling water. Spoke of wanting open this site for a while; the present situation in Poulfantaiseach, needs a thin chested Jim or Cathal, to support PMcG to

press on along the open rift, ideally before too long. The work required relates to the frustrated Plumber. Intend speak with the landowner for permission to fence off and dig Poulbruion.



Showing trend of average Poulfantaiseach passage bearing.



View of stream



Paul in MQ03, townland boundary, (fence), beyond.

27th October SUI- ICRO sub's paid, €117.00; including FFS expedition and diving insurance.

27th October 10:00. Murphy's Medical Centre, Ennistymon, 6th Covid jab.

28th October Poulbruíon
Solo

15:00. Cloud 60%; Wind SE, F4; Visibility 30Nm; Ground wet; Rain Gauge 3mm. The Plan: assess site requirements. Previously unrecorded, discovered 21st August 2023. Spoke earlier with MQ, requesting permission; enthusiastically instructed to "Work Away"; MQ accurately described this sites precise location and spoke of a "sizable" hole in the bottom. Descended, confirmed PMcG's observations. Dug the central area adjacent an obvious two foot deep hole; between both vertical rift faces; no sound of water today. At a depth of only six inches found extensive root system. Need loppers, secateurs, pruning saw and a hauling system. The soil is of clay and silts, each appear fine grained. Grey coloured clay found just beneath the brown soil cover, similar to that seen in Poulfantaiseach. A simple scaffold platform spanning the rift would facilitate hauling, the spoil scattered evenly over the landscape using the wheel barrow. Fencing the site is straightforward enough; two limestone terraces will take rawlbolts to strain wire between, supported by four fence posts. However, the west side will require locating grykes in which to secure fence posts. Have barbed wire. When showers cleared, descended west, downhill, to the Drovers Road; enroute remembered another site; found it, a developing collapse; fifteen metres from the boundary wall and seventy metres from the Drover's Road.

As winter storms approach intend develop this site, particularly if Poulfantaiseach becomes too wet in which to function and deploy a Hilti drill, as occasional snugness of Poulfantaiseach requires engineering a little more space for PC's chest to pass through.



Poulbruíon view Northwest.



Poulbruíon, view Nor-nor-east



Poulbruíon, beneath bushes, mid-image, view West.

28th October

20:30. LS rang, transferred scaffold clips and Book to Ray Murphy for delivery to Doolin.

29th October

Lost David Sweetman

31st October Carnane Rain Gauge; 223mm for October.

Rain total October Carnane

01/10/23	9	02/10/23	away	03/10/23	away	04/10/23	away
05/10/23	away	06/10/23	54	07/10/23	2	08/10/23	0
09/10/23	0	10/10/23	0	11/10/23	8	12/10/23	2
13/10/23	3	14/10/23	2	15/10/23	0	16/10/23	1
17/10/23	1	18/10/23	38	19/10/23	8	20/10/23	1
21/10/23	5	22/10/23	8	23/10/23	9	24/10/23	8
25/10/23	1	26/10/23	17	27/10/23	5	28/10/23	7
29/10/23	20	30/10/23	3	31/10/23	11	Total	223

1st November Scaffold clips arrived via Linda Wilson, via Lenny Smith, Ray Murphy.

2nd November Pouldubh

Emmett MacNamara, Niamh MacNamara

10:00. Cloud 95%; Wind SE, F4/5: Visibility 15 Nm: Ground wet: Rain Gauge 3mm. The Plan: Niamh's first caving trip. Her school transition year; PC asked her Father, EMcN, accompany NMcN. One previous component of the year visited, geomorphology. Transition

year students, all too often are exposed to little more experience than working in a café. Considered recent rainfall, took team to Pouldubh South. Entered Pouldubh South, at main passage junction, instructed NM McN “of you go”. Initial caution evaporated, developing into an enjoyable experience for her. She was delighted. Much explanation regarding scalloping, passage development, flooding, deposits etc. Exited Pouldubh middle entrance. Delighted to see the transformation from initial apprehension to the thrill of the underworld. Back to the MacNamara household for tea and medals. Based her homework on today’s trip.

3rd November Poulbruíon
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

13:30. Cloud 95%: Wind SW, F4: Visibility 20 Nm: Ground wet: Light showers: Rain Gauge 4mm. The Plan: prepare dig. Ancient roots, as thick as an arm, obstructing the dig area, were eventually removed using saws and loppers, taking most of the Team’s time on site. The walls assessed for stemple installation. With the large roots gone, discussion agreed best practice was to excavate a “vertical step” some two feet deep, at the southern end. Then install a stemple at the lowest practicable position for the shoring. Above this install a second stemple, behind which fit reinforcing mesh and boarding to secure spoil behind. Doing this will allow spoil to be cast over the shoring without hauling. The intended spoil area, behind the southern shoring could potentially hold six cubic metres. Heavy rain threatened to-night. Hours 6, (6).



Poulbruíon; Paul McGrath and Cheg Chester, 3rd November.



Paul, dig area cleared of roots, one five inch root resting in foreground.

3rd November Flu like reaction to Covid Jab.

6th November Teergonean souterrain
Eilis Haden

Asked to be interviewed for a forthcoming book. Required to be conducted within a souterrain. Explained impracticable unless long-ish walk undertaken. Settled for Teergonean. Three hours of questions; a great opportunity to discuss personally developing theories.

9th November Lost Claire Collins; murdered by husband.

10th November Emergency dash to Dublin.

13th November Storm Debi
Red warning, an accurate assessment; peaked at 03:50.

13th November Fagradalsfjall volcano activates.

13th November Reaction to 6th Covid jab only now abating.

13th November Lost Professor Mike Baillie

13th November Poulbruíon
Paul McGrath

14:00. Cloud 100%; Wind W, F7/8; remnants Storm Debi): Visibility 15Nm: Ground sodden: Rain gauge since 09:00, the 10th = 38mm (most, seemingly from the storm). The Plan: dig. Very short notice to the Team. Windswept ascent; sea conditions very rough. Created a vertical face in the southwest end of the rift floor. To the depth of another 750mm, can now install the lower of the three shoring stemples for the southwest side. Once stabilized, can deal

with the northeast side; spoil initially deposited onto the south area. Ideally repeating the same to the northeast. Avoiding as little hauling to the surface, and dumping, as possible. Depth exposed a change of the upper soil strata to a grey clay deposit, just above several angular boulders, resting upon other stone and possible gravel deposits. Ready for shoring. Hours 3, (9).

18th November Considines Cave, South End

Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

10:00. Cloud 100%: Wind W, F5/6: Visibility 20Nm: Ground awash: large stream: Rain gauge 19mm. The Plan: Remove fixed ladders below "The Staging". Arrived to find the canopy ripped apart by Storm Debi, also had issues with the breaking system of the winch; ably sorted by CC. CC on the winch and surface support. PMcG support from the staging. PC to the bottom of the ladders. A slow process, removing the bolts and fixings, conducted from a sit harness attached to the ladder rungs, resulting with crimped balls. Gradually got a feel for what could be undone and where to do it. Solo, CC, managed to "land" the shorter ladders, for the long ladder, PC surfaced to assist landing this heavy unit; the holes in the canopy meant, by using cow tails and the winch rope the five metre ladder was guided through a handy hole in the roof and lowered to the working platform, which is swiftly deteriorating. Four hours of dangling and hard effort by the Team managed to land the two short and one long ladders. A tough session. The stemples below the staging will be removed Monday afternoon. Experience suggests rebar steps be fitted adjacent the ladder joints, off which to work in a more safe and stable manner.

Need arrange a trailer and a tractor to remove forthcoming material and equipment.

Hours 13 (3405), Southend (2353), Kibbles 0 (6754), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts

7691

20th November Considines Cave, South End

Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

13:00. Cloud 90%: Wind NW, F4/5: Visibility 15Nm: Ground awash: large stream: Rain gauge 4mm. The Plan: continue removing infrastructure. Set up an SRT rope off the Tripod; PMcG to the bottom to recover the rebar steps from -22m to -25m, then ascending to remove the stemples up to the level of the "Staging". Meanwhile, CC and PC cleared accumulated digging detritus. PC then descended to assess installing "Rebar Steps" adjacent the remaining ladder joints, to work more safely and easily. However, the dam Hilti acted up again, no hammer action, again; somewhat pissed off. To complete today's tasks, inserted a scaffold bar to secure an SRT rope to when removing remaining stemples. There appears to be one long and four shorter ladders remaining. Plan visit next Friday to install steps and begin releasing fixings. CC had begun to carry up some of the plastic kibbles to the trucks. Fortunately a pal was preparing a trailer of recycling material; asked permission to load kibbles and metal material.

Hours 10 (3415), Southend (2363), Kibbles 0 (6754), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts

7691



Results, storm Debi

Recovered ladders.

Photos Cheg Chester

22nd November

Lost Jackie Dors.

24th November Considines Cave, South End

Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

13:00. Cloud 10%: Wind NW, F3/4: Visibility 30Nm: Ground sodden: large stream: Rain gauge 3mm. The Plan: Further preparation for ladder removal. CC surface: PC below. Using cow tails secured to ladder rungs and lifeline PC stopped at the junction/joint of each fixed ladder. Estimating approximate position to drill 14mm holes to insert 12mm rebar "steps" on which to stand in SRT kit to dismantle the ladder fixings. Descended with the Hilti and spare battery in a tackle sac, a mistake. The weight an issue getting into position, and drilling. This replacement Hilti is quite superb; delighted at it and the batteries performance. Grip giving problems, finished drilling, ascended. CC had been busy stripping ancillary items and bits off anything that didn't move. Figured out a way of removing the topmost, longest, heaviest ladder incorporating a hauling line deviation to lift it to surface. Carried up several more bits to the truck, more discussion over transporting the ladders, which will total two long and seven short. Touched on hauling at Poulbruíon, will likely install a tripod to accommodate lifting kibbles and tipping spoil either side of the scaffold frame shoring .

Hours 5 (3420), Southend (2368), Kibbles 0 (6754), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts

7691

25th November Pluais Gabhar

Róisín Nic Cnáimhín

15:00. Cloud 80%: Wind NW, F2/3: Visibility 30Nm: Ground sodden: large: Rain gauge 1mm. The Plan: examination, in situ of the stone axe. RNC arrived Ennis from Cork. Lunch at home, then onto the site. Wandered around explaining the landscape features. Depression

foliage devoid of leaf. Removed the small stone flag hiding the once exposed stone axe. An opportunity with another archaeologist to critically discuss its votive placement and available fresh water sources throughout the area: there are but few. Returned to the Hilux just as darkness fell; to Byrnes, Ennistymon, for food and drink.

27th November Considine's Cave, South End

Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

13:00. Cloud 60%: Wind N, F2/3: Visibility >35Nm: Ground sodden: Stream medium: Rain gauge 7mm. The Plan: remove ladders above staging. CC winching: PMcG below: PC surface. PMcG, descended on SRT and began work; a herculean task, wresting often corroded bolts from timber and stemple securing. The temporary rebar steps were useful enabling PMcG to brace self, attempting undo the more difficult bolts. The five metre, topmost ladder remains. To remove this, part of the working platform will be removed to lift it vertically to surface. Several stemples came out attached to ladders, the remainder await removal. Managed to convey three ladders up to the back of the Landowners house, ready for transportation.

Hours 9 (3429), Southend (2377), Kibbles o (6754), Nets o (929), Total lifts 7691

30th November

Lost Shane MacGowan

1st December Considine's Cave, South End.

Cheg Chester

13:00. Cloud 70%: Wind E, F1: Visibility >35Nm: Ground wet: Stream small: Rain gauge 0mm. The Plan: remove final ladder. PMcG previously released the stemple securing the lower part of the top ladder, the remaining fixings, bolts and screws. Re-located the lifting pulley along the main canopy spar, directly above the ladder, only then able to remove the platform pallet to release the ladder's topmost fixings. CC on winch, PC climbed down onto the scaffold frame he'd fitted in 2020. All ladder fixings came apart swiftly. Attached the hauling hook and lifted the ladder up; the process was repeated three times, as ladder length was five metres. Result; ladder out in less than twenty minutes. Stripped apart the hauling line and lifeline, recovered the SRT rope. Will bring a decent SRT rope Monday and suspect it from a scaffold bar on the surface. Several stemples remain which PMcG can remove Monday. Staging remain, a useful access through the narrow rift into the North End shaft. Electrics and winch can be removed. Will also recover the generator; left the sack trucks there for this purpose.

Hours 5 (3434), Southend (2382), Kibbles o (6754), Nets o (929), Total lifts 7691



Topmost ladder exposed, galvanized scaffold grill visible.

Photo Cheg Chester



PC removing fixings.

Photo Cheg Ches-

ter.

2nd December Pluais Gabhar
Eilis Haden

13:00. Cloud 40%: Wind SE, F2: Visibility >35Nm: Ground wet: Stream small: Rain gauge 5mm. The Plan: interviewed by EH, researching her Masters, having requested a second for the chapter regarding the underground realm. In sight of the hand axe, potential relationships of man and the underworld were discussed. This potential votive offering, presented at a water source, suggests a culture of belief among the Mesolithic; if indeed the act was carried out by Mesolithic. Megalithic Tombs erected by the Neolithic exhibited their rituals-beliefs, such were thought the earliest. The Mesolithic established both coastal sites of Fanore I and Fanore II, circa 7/6000BCE. The three hours passed swiftly, in spite of the freezing conditions.

4th December Considine's Cave
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

13:00. Cloud 5%: Wind NW, F3/4: Cold: Visibility >25Nm: Ground wet: Stream small: Rain gauge 5mm. The Plan: continue removing infrastructure. PMcG to below, stripping remaining stemples; whilst below visited the North End via the squeeze from the South End emerging beneath "The Pinch". CC removed electrical circuitry and began dismantling the winch. PC cut the five metre ladders in half, ready for future usage, and ease of handling, also recovered the water system from the cistern in the field to the reservoirs at the dig. Removed the Teams generator. Over several trips apiece, carried up to the truck a lot of kit, including ladders, boxes of ironmongery and hose pipes. An excellent session; thoroughly shagged out, but delighted.

Hours 7 (3441), Southend (2389), Kibbles o (6754), Nets o (929), Total lifts 7691

5th December Irish Aviation Authority; Drone Pilot, Class A2, Category C2, Exam, pass 87%.

6th December Registered the Mavic Drone with the I.A.A.

7th December Doolin IRCG Station

21:30. Met with Coast Guard Director, following results of the inquest. Finished 23:30.

11th December Considine's Cave.

Lenny Smith, Cheg Chester

13:00. Cloud 100%, base 1000ft: Wind NE, F3/4: Chill: Visibility 10Nm: Pissing Down: Ground and Men sodden: Large stream: Rain gauge, 26mm; (*09:00 Friday to 09:00 today*). The Plan: continue to strip infrastructure. LS in support. CC began dismantling the winch. PC climbed down onto the scaffold frame to install/secure another two, two metre bars to the grill to cover the gap from whence the fixed ladder was removed. An estimated 3.5 metres of open rift will remain to cover with the grill when the infrastructure is removed. Carried the three remaining ladders, (Heavy), Winch main chassis, (fairly heavy), winch drive/gearbox/capstan chassis motor, (quite heavy), winch motor (effing 'eavy) up to the parking area, need organize a trailer ASAP. A fine, productive session, only achieved with the help of LS: nice.

Hours 7 (3448), Southend (2396), Kibbles o (6754), Nets o (929), Total lifts 7691

15th December IAA Licence issued; Open A2, C2.

Training conducted by the Irish Coast Guard agency. Having own drone can examine project archaeological sites.

Intend use the sensitive infra-red system to identify "warm spots", during winter, particularly in the moorland area of Sliabh Eilbhe. Calibrating the unit against the draught emerging from Poulfantaiseach, Pollapooka and perhaps Faunarooska.

17th December Panamá Cave Project Report.

Solo. 13:31. Finally; finished and circulated report; for better or worse.

17th December

Lost Maureen Sweeney; 1923-2023, (100),
D-Day storm weather forecaster, stationed at Black Sod, Co. Mayo..
Father, deployed on Sword beach, directly benefited.

19th December (00:30)

Sean Callan appeared, a healthy 7lbs

21st December Pluais Gabhar

Solo

14:00. Cloud 100%: Wind NW, F8/9: Visibility 2Nm: Ground wet. The Plan: design a process to survey the Axe in situ. Its situation, the far side of the narrow rift, means taking any kind of measurement will be awkward. Fixing a base line tape into the gravel matrix, above and behind the Axe will be unsatisfactory. Intend cover the Axe with a dust sheet, drill a datum into the natural limestone roof, directly above the Axe. Will then drop a plumbline from the datum to the centre of the Axe. Next, can confidently, also secure the baseline tape to this fixing, (cup hook?), through the entrance, to a hand tree outside. Using laser levels resting on the adjacent ledge can record multiple Axe context profiles, including the rift, which is a barrier/feature between where the axe was placed and the actual entrance. Ideally need a recorder, (Scribe).

23rd December Pluais Gabhar

Solo

13:00 Cloud 100%, base 300ft: Rain: Wind S/SW, F7/8: Visibility 20 metres: Ground sodden. Rain gauge 3mm: The Plan; establish survey datums. Deployed plumbline to establish precise roof datum, centring off the middle, leading edge of the axe, the main portion just beneath the adjacent boulder. Managed insert a base line peg into compacted coarse gravel, 0.1m past the axe; being zero metres on the base line. Extended baseline to boulder at the entrance.

Commenced survey. Confined within the rift, at the base of the wet, muddy entrance slope, repeatedly exchanging measuring equipment to record data in notebook. The latter suffered from migrating mud and myriad roof drips. Stifled frustration; managed record the minimum, but important measurements. As previously suspected, a scribe is needed to avoid water and mud transference. Confident had established the precise axe location, removed same

to submit to the National Museum: somewhat relieved to have finally done so. Surfaced into visibility of less than three metres with rain blown by gale force winds. No navigation issues returning to the Hilux. However, cattle have created ankle wrecking craters all along the normal paths. Called to Niamh MacNamara requesting her assistance as scribe; agreed for 14:00, the 27th.

23rd December Notified the Site registration Officer, Mary Tunney, by email; (18:03).

23rd December Notified the Duty Officer, National Museum by email; (18:17)



View North; plumb bob at centre of axe leading edge.
Baseline datum yellow peg.



View North; shale axe.



View North; axe position far side of rift from entrance, water level, 1.5 metres beneath ledge.

26th December Considine's Cave

Matt Randall, Luke Randall

10:00. Cloud 100%: Wind SE, F2/3: Chill: Visibility 20Nm: Ground, water logged: Large stream: Rain Gauge 3mm: The Plan: Strip winch shed and canopy. Enroute, picked up MR & LR. Brief chat with JN. Set about removing canopy. Working platform dodgy and collapsing;

choosing where exactly to step like something out of an Indiana Jones movie. The worst of the rotting timber set about in the spoil area, to provide an environment for little beasts. A pile of canopy requires bagging up and recycling; bags needed. An assortment of bits and pieces, fittings, fixings etc. remain. The headgear remains in situ. It may be best to start removing the northern part of the pallet platform, to complete the scaffold grill beneath, in the far northern corner. Then begin to cover the grill from there, so there will always be a firm floor from which to work off of, rather than the existing heart stopping, collapsing platform. More galvanized scaffold tube required, will order a further six lengths.

Hours 6 (3454), Southend (2402), Kibbles o (6754), Nets o (929), Total lifts 7691

27th December (1973)

Met Pauline McDermott

27th December Considine's Cave
Solo

13:00. Cloud 100%: Wind W, F7/8: Visibility 30Nm: Ground water logged: Very large stream: Rain Gauge 29mm: The Plan; secure plastic sheet pieces of canopy. With the imminent arrival of Storm Gerrit, decided check the remnants of plastic sheet, cut off yesterday. Though not disturbed by the F6/7, last night, covered the pile with the reinforcing mesh. Carried up the larger water reservoir tank.

Hours 1 (3455), Southend (2403), Kibbles o (6754), Nets o (929), Total lifts 7691

27th December Reply from National Museum to email; put item registration form in post. Antiquities Division Duty Officer antiquitiesdo@museum.ie 01 6777 444

28th December Submitted last group of transcribed logbooks, 2000 - 2009 to Alan Gray.

30th December Poulbruíon
Solo

13:00. Cloud 70%; Rain – Hail showers: Wind SW, backing easterly, F5/6: Visibility 2Nm: Ground sodden: Rain Gauge 18mm: The Plan; get some actual digging in. En-route, looked for a better place to cross the wall. Followed the boundary wall east, uphill, onto the same terrace as Poulbruíon. Where it drops into the gully, which flows to Poulballyelly, here wall is low, step-able, even for the most shortest of legs. No movement of the wall exposed, 13th Nov. All appears stable, even though the slope's surface has been washed: rain or surface water flow? As previously experience the surface of the fill is slippery; stability of stance an issue when pivoting to throw spoil. Resorted to clearing a filled spade then throwing the lumps up the less steep gully to the northeast. Encountered small stones and assorted roots. Managed some ninety minutes before having enough. Left a reasonable hole. Found the east wall continues vertically downwards, with what appears to be a vertical joint? Excellent. Pressed ear into the hole, at base of the west wall; convinced could hear a more substantial flow of water than previous, sounding as though it was falling a distance: echo imagined. Wishful thinking? Exited, into dense, dark cloud, and hail storm. Visibility reduced to twenty metres, cloud base, well below the Drover's Road. Driving back encountered an American; male, 30-ish. Offered lift, declined, as walking to Doolin. 1.5, (10.5).

30th December (1998) Lost Pete Fowler to Ogof Pont yr Meirw



PC, Pete Fowler, Martyn Farr
Preparing depart to push Altinbesik 1998.



PC and Pete Fowler Altinbesik Sump I base.

Photo Martyn

Farr.

31st December

December rainfall Carnane, (280mm) 1993mm = 78.5 inches.

01/12/23	4	02/12/23	1	03/12/23	0	04/12/23	0
05/12/23	0	06/12/23	0	07/12/23	11	08/12/23	16
09/12/23	away	10/12/23	away	11/12/23	23	12/12/23	16
13/12/23	8	14/12/23	2	15/12/23	4	16/12/23	2
17/12/23	2	18/12/23	34	19/12/23	2	20/12/23	3
21/12/23	6	22/12/23	8	23/12/23	4	24/12/23	21
25/12/23	8	26/12/23	3	27/12/23	29	28/12/23	31
29/12/23	5	30/12/23	18	31/12/23	19	Total	280
JANUARY	142	APRIL	84	JULY	319	OCTOBER	223
FEBRUARY	61	MAY	72	AUGUST	142	NOVEMBER	155
MARCH	191	JUNE	124	SEPTEMBER	200	DECEMBER	280
	394		280		661		658

TOTAL 1993mm

31st December Poulfantaiseach - Halliday's Hole – Poulbruíon; Sliabh Eilbhe Solo

11:00. Last of the Year: Cloud 95%, base 700ft: Heavy showers: Wind NW, F6, gusting F8: Visibility 10Nm: Ground water logged/flooded: Rain Gauge 19mm: The Plan: assess recent rain effect. Since the 24th, 134mm of rain and hail has fallen. Wandered the wider project area, around the sites. Poulfantaiseach, taking a good sized stream, as was Halliday's Hole and each adjacent sink. At Poulbruíon; listened at the little hole. As yesterday, strong surface wind noise did not permit a clear estimate of running water below. In adjacent gulleys, deep and shallow, at 250m OD, were small streams flowing through the pastures, toward the project's main area of interest. The small collapse, fifty metres upstream of Poulballyelly, was taking a trickle. The area, north of Pluais Gabhar, best guessed vicinity for Pollapooka II and A1e, was entirely water logged. Stream noise from the shaft of Pollapooka, delightfully thunderous; believed the stream from the small sink, feeding the Holy Well of Toberanahircallough, via Pollantobar, via E1 sink, via many depressions to the final, deep, (partially back-filled) depression, ten metres south of Pollapooka; the opposite side of the rough track. Noted a large stream flowing through Toberanahircallough. Walking - observation, challenging in rain and hail; showers occurring every ten minutes. Would have been drier to lay in the pools. En-route, there and back, noted that any hollow in every field held a pool; roads had standing water in every possible hollow.



Hand Axe recovered from Pluais Gabhar, (Goat Hole), 23 December 2023. Potentially linked to the Mesolithic encampments of Fanore I and Fanore II.