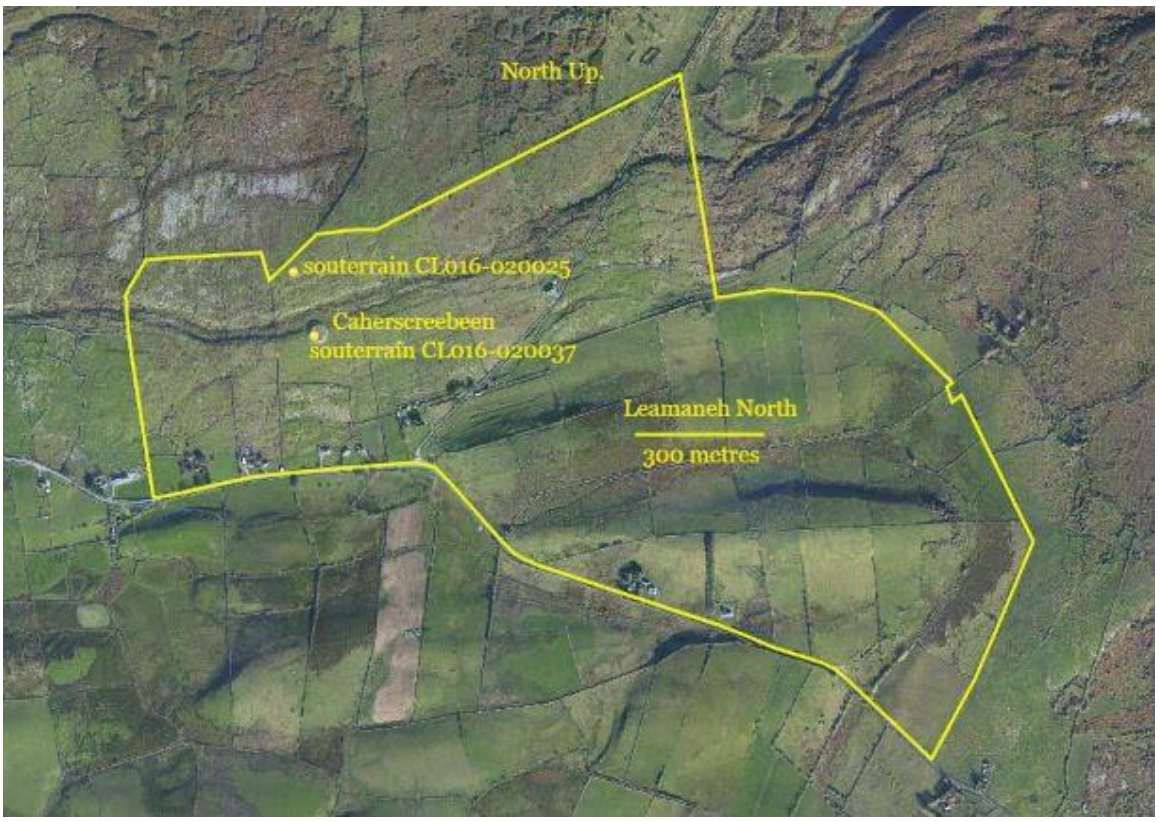
Personal Log

1st January Cullaun II
Solo
First trip of the year. Picked up the Hilux left at McDermott's, having had a few pints last night with LS and PMcG: extant restrictions require mandatory closing 20:00. Cloud 100%; Wind SW, F5/6: Showers: Visibility 5Nm: Ground awash: The Plan; continue search for Farr's flash gun. MF provided an image taken near Pool Chamber; second location.
Small trickle in the entrance. At the cascades stream flowing onto the lower rib; the far side the cascade. A lot of mist; likely from the exterior air temp of 14˚C. Experienced difficultly reconciling imagery with reality; slowly moved downstream. Climbed a metre to a projecting limestone lump; standing on tip toe to peer onto a ledge. As the foot hold left the wall, landed upright stream, jolting ankle. Swiftly removed left sock, pulling over right sock; squeezing all back into right welly, before swelling erupted. Surfaced in heavy showers, worse part, the walk back to the motor.

3rd January CL016-020037, Souterrain, Leamaneh North Td.
Paul McGrath
Cloud 100%: Wind W, F4: Visibility 10Nm: Ground, limestone; dry: The Plan: meet the landowners. PMcG had arranged an introduction with his friends, the owners. Having previously spoken of the souterrain project. A cordial meeting; Bernie promptly inviting immediate examination of the sites: a pleasant, obliging couple.



Souterrain CL016-020037 is within Cashel, CL016-20026, Caherscreebeen on OS maps. Elevated, this cashel overlooks and possibly controlled use of the Ennis – Kilfenora road, and use of the north/south road at its adjacent junction, to Ballyvaghan on the north coast.

The souterrain is in a deep hollow in the southwestern quadrant. Unprepared, the cursory look, illuminated by mobile phone, assessed it approximately three metres long, a metre high and maybe little over a metre wide. Corbelling, large lintels and what seems to be a sub-square hollow in the floor was noted: better illumination required. The cashel is in poor condition; centuries of grazing contribute to its present state. Originally, maybe, once six metres in height, the rampart is reduced to an anonymous rubble slope. Much of the rampart outer stonework is obscured by this tumble; some original sections survive, a fine section on the north side of the cashel. The original entrance located, as expected, facing east. The interior of the cashel is an uneven surface, several linear, north/south walls, sub divide the interior area. One surface feature may be a sub-square house.
Surveying this monument will present challenges, as will conveying the equipment.

4th January (2020) Lost Simon Halliday

6th January John O'Neill, murdered
Lisdoonvarna

8th January Cullaun II
Paul McGrath
Cloud 100%: Sleet/hail showers: Wind WNW, F5/6: Visibility >20Nm: Ground awash: The Plan: Further search for Farr's flash gun. 10:30, met at the parking spot. Evidence of heavy rain, (02:00 – 04:30); extensive flooding in fields and on some parts of the roads. Good size stream in the entrance. The cascades were very large; the noise, enchanting. Main stream large; Year Passage inlet stream also large, below this junction the stream was a real torrent. Steady trip to Pool Chamber. Studied the image sent by Farr, managed to reconcile the location. A thorough search of various ledges up to six metres above the stream level found no light: bugger. Happy to report the light was not left in Cullaun II. The other option being Poulanian main chamber. From Pool Chamber headed back via the old, upper streamway. This route, though at times awkward provides fine examples of stream development and the obscure, gorgeous decorations; especially the helictites. Exited to a windswept landscape; changing, rewarded with a hail shower.

9th January Considine's (South End)
Solo
Cloud 100%: Wind NW, F4: Cold: Visibility <10Nm: Ground awash: medium stream: The Plan: sort water supply before tomorrow's ginging session. Stole Pauline's Garden hose pipe to use in conjunction with the hose donated by PMcG: taken along just in case. Existing ½ inch pipe had become choked with fine particles of silt. Attempts to unblock, unsuccessful. The likely reason for accumulation, a control nozzle fitted to the discharge pipe outlet slowed the outfall, allowing precipitation of particles to take place. Removed knackered pipework. Removed reservoir, reinstated on compacted clay. Changed outlet to a quick release, standard hose connection. Ran new hose along ditch, through foliage, secured to branches, for support. As an afterthought, directed main flow to the washing cistern; believing future suspended debris can be captured with the silt off cleaning the kit. From the washing cistern ran a hose pipe to the main cistern, passing beneath the walkway pallets. Cleaned significant amount of accumulated silt from both cisterns. Flow to the main cistern is slow, but steady. Ideally, will replace extant ½ inch hose pipe with that of a larger diameter. Generator not run: no fuel on site.
Hours 3 (3086), Southend (2036) Kibbles 0 (6197), Nets 0 (923), Total lifts 7128

10th January Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
Cloud 100%; base 500ft: Wind SW, F4, gusting 6: Visibility <3Nm: Ground awash: The Plan: Maintenance. CC descended to -24m to commence work, installing ginging to stabilize the loose fill exposed in "The Gap". Meanwhile PC secured expanded mesh, donated by PMcG, along the length of an eight-foot scaffold plank; creating a slip free, barrow run. Installed same, and two shorter, forming a barrow run behind the winch shed. Began removing the briars from among the Blackthorn. PMcG appeared, helping clear the area, which is now ready for spoil deposition up to the path to the generator: a significant area. All cuttings left to compost beneath the forthcoming spoil. CC reported the lower area of "The Gap" has finally healed up. Overflow fitted to wash cistern so the northern shaft much less wet. CC fuel. Generator ¾ full: no fuel on site.
Hours 7 (3093), Southend (2043) Kibbles 0 (6197), Nets 0 (923), Total lifts 7128

14th January Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
Cloud 95%: Wind W, F2: Cold: Visibility <25Nm: Ground sodden: small steam: The Plan: Dig. CC winching, PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. Issue with signal box speaker, PMcG unable to receive down signal: resorted to vocal comms. With completion of the ginging of "The Gap", the large heap of stone, collected for the purpose, was lifted to surface. Thirty kibbles were once again raised, including six of clays and gravels. PMcG experienced a cold, strong draught issuing from the northern shaft, this affect is considered to be the cold outside temperature falling down the shaft passing through the short connecting passage emerging into the south shaft at -22m.The east and west walls, adjacent "The Gap" are seen to continue vertically down, below floor level, the eastern wall appears to slowly slope outwards. There is the hint of a rift next to the wall of "Paul's Pot", perhaps, the area, against the east wall may develop into a rift? A tough, excellent session. Maintenance is needed to address weather canopy; maybe Monday? Barrow way good but needs minor improvement to plank support. Generator a little under ½ full: no fuel on site.
Hours 10 (3103), Southend (2053) Kibbles 30 (6227), Nets 0 (923), Total lifts 7158

16th January 100th anniversary of the Irish Free State.
Michael Collins took over from the British at Dublin Castle.

17th January Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester
Cloud 95%, base 600ft: Wind WNW, F4: Cold: Visibility <25Nm: Ground sodden: tiny stream: The Plan: maintenance. The weather canopy had suffered from Storms Arwen and Barra, torn laterally along the east side. Fitted timber to tripod, secured torn canopy to this with strips of batten. The west side also requires repair, as soon as possible. With the signal box on the surface CC checked the system, without finding any obvious fault. In in case the fault may low battery capacity carried both back to be charged. Oil checked in generator: No fuel on site. Field reservoir water level requires attention.
Hours 3 (3106), Southend (2056) Kibbles 0 (6227), Nets 0 (923), Total lifts 7158

19th January Lost Tom Mount

20th January Proposal reduce covid restrictions by the weekend.

21st January Considine's (South End)
Paul McGrath

Cloud 100%: Wind NW, F2: Visibility 35Nm: Ground sodden: tiny stream: The Plan: maintenance. An adapted visit. Ferried all the plastic paneling to repair the weather canopy to site, also returning the two charged, communications batteries: delayed, talking to Kathy Normoyle. Finally, met PMcG who had arrived earlier, cutting back the briars in readiness to repair the west side of the weather canopy. Also, rigging the shaft for SRT; watched the Fall and Rise of PMcG among the dark. During the trip PMcG took photos of numerous features; these to follow. Finish off his visit filling a kibble. Generator near full: PMcG fuel: no fuel on site. Plastic paneling offered up to the offending hole; the eight-foot lengths will be more than sufficient to enclose the gap. Hours 3 (3109), Southend (2059) Kibbles 0 (6227), Nets 0 (923), Total lifts 7158

22nd January Almost all Covid restrictions lifted today.
Bars revert to normal hours with no social distancing.
A mistake to remove the Covid passport entry system.

22nd January Souterrain CL004-016040; Caherbullog
Solo
Cloud 100%: Wind SSW, F2/3, cold: Sleet: Rain: Ground wet: Visibility 25Nm. Unsettled weather prompted parking at the northeast corner of the drover's track, rather than at Faunarooska Cross. Walk in took half an hour. No nettles guarding the entrance. Exposed areas of the floor, quite dry. Erected walking Pole, (curtain rod), draped coat on it as a position locator; if ever required. Surfaced in response to a loud chorus of crows, found jacket torn apart, on floor. Set up laser level to project its vertical red line from where the upper area of corbelling supports the roof flagstone. Scrimping on weight of equipment, mistakenly thought a 100mm wooden wedge, pushed into a wall joint, would suffice: it didn't. It does not project out far enough to allow the vertical line project parallel along the walls length; time lost, resolving, (phaffing), the issue. Visually, both walls appear similar. Examination shows corbelling, and construction different between each wall and also along their lengths. Stone dimensions differ significantly; there are also small areas of lesser stones, which appear used as make up among the more uniform stonework. The plastic triangle built and trialed to record height measurements of drystone jointing in the uneven wall surfaces, worked well. Realize need to draw a measure along its working, horizontal edge, thus removing the need to keep reaching for a tape measure; normally requiring a third hand. Exited to a heavy sleet shower; jacket in tatters; temperature bitter. Had decided to bring no tea: stupid mistake. Half hour back to the truck.

22nd January IRCO Callout, Cork.
Conor McGrath rang 17:05. Alert of an incident in Cork; potentially requiring assistance from those with digging skills. Stanislaw Drapla, had dug into a cave; squeezing inside, a boulder fell behind him sealing him inside. CMcG texted 17:36, drama over.

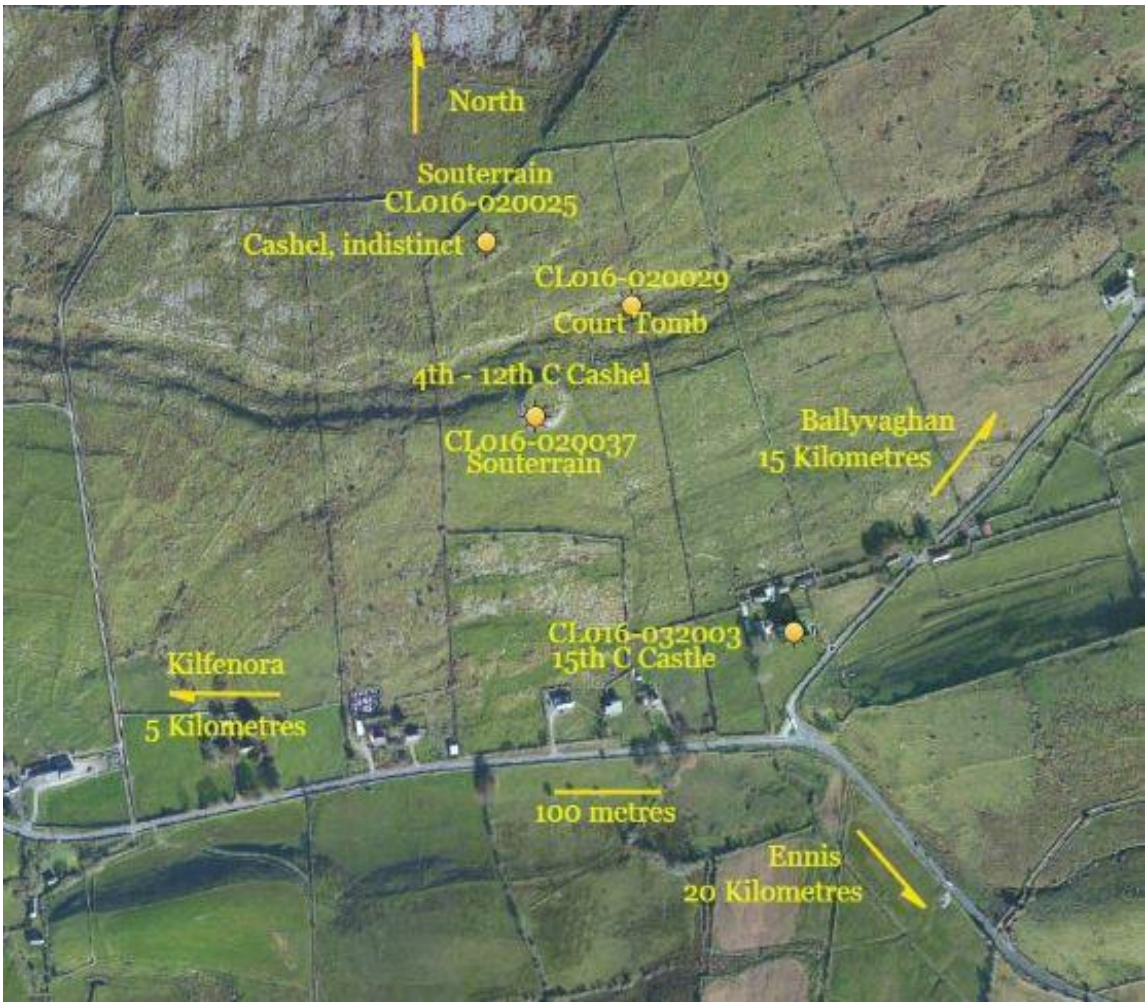
24th January Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
Cloud 100%: Wind SW, F2: Visibility 15Nm: Ground sodden: tiny stream: The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. Initially encountered issues where hauling and travel lines twisted, approaching -6m: sorted. PMcG excavated the area of the outside wall of "Paul's Pot", following it around to the East Wall of the shaft. Of the two, the east wall not only appears to continue vertically into the spoil, but slopes outward toward the east; seemingly toward "The Crevice", located within "Paul's Pot". Removed spoil consists of washed cobbles and boulders, among washed gravels; with little or no clay or silt present. Contrasting with the South Rift where the dense clay fill has often been of a dry consistency. The clean

washed appearance of this spoil and proximity of "The Crevice", suggests this may be the primary route of the ebb and flow of recent inundations which flooded the main shaft to -12m. Potentially this area may continue as a shaft below the level of "The Crevice, (-26m): survey required to precisely plot. Though a slow start, the session produced thirty kibbles and one net. Issues concerning the barrow way behind the winch shed: weather canopy needs completing: Winch drive belts need checking: Generator a little over ½ full: no fuel on site. Begun depositing boulders adjacent the path to the stile, these will also cover the dead pallets. Field reservoir needs attention.

Hours 10 (3119), Southend (2069) Kibbles 30 (6257), Nets 1 (924), Total lifts 7189

28th January Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester
Cloud 100%, base 500ft: Wind SW, F4: Visibility 200m: Ground sodden: tiny stream: The Plan: maintenance. Tended to the field reservoir while CC inspected the winch, drive pulleys and belts. Ideally the reservoir wants relocating to solve erosion issues: in hand. Water supply is reinstated. The barrow way plank was fitted with a sleeper; it appears more stable. Plastic panels were secured to replace damaged weather canopy. The dead pallet on the path edge was broken up and deposited among the undergrowth for wood munching critters to enjoy; the area cleared, is ready for this section of wall to be built. Low hanging branches were trimmed to deposit boulders and cobbles two metres from the upper edge of the depression, which can continue around to the stile. Generator a little over ½ full: no fuel on site. Thought given to protecting the platform from rain. A good session. Hours 4 (3123), Southend (2073) Kibbles 0 (6257), Nets 0 (924), Total lifts 7189

29th January Souterrain CL016-020025; Leamaneah North Td.
Solo
Cloud 80%: Wind NW, F4: Cold: Visibility 10Nm: Ground damp. The Plan: walk the site.
Called into Tom and Bernie, owners, en-route to the Cashel. Sections of the uphill slope from the road, appears to have had limestone bedrock quarried for building material. Leamaneah Castle, (15th to 17th C.), being the most obvious need, as its curtain wall, outer defensive and substantial field walls. Cashel, (CL016-020026), (entrance, ITM 523251 x 693819) (4th to 12thC) and the fortified Castle, (CL016-032003), (ITM 523467 x 063608), (15th to 17th C); built close to the junction, appear so constructed as to impose its status and exercise control of those using the junction of the East – West route between the ecclesiastical and secular centres of Ennis, Kilinaboy and Kilfenora, and the north route, passing the high-status Cashel of Caherconnell, to Ballyvaghan. Cashel (CL016-020026), is ruinous, its interior surface uneven; particular its perimeter; it too seems robbed for valuable building stone. Rough and uneven, the interior can be surveyed by plane table. Recorded souterrain CL016-020037, (ITM 0523227 x 0693811). Worked the area north, through ancient field walls to the all but indistinct sub-square Cashel CL016-020036, and souterrain CL016-020025, (ITM 0523183 x 0693969). Some three metres in length, only four or five lintels remain, it is possible it extends westwards beneath the ground cover. Width 1.2m, height 1m; its walls are of drystone construction, no bedrock visible. Constructed/aligned almost E/W, unlike neighbour, CL016-020037, which is constructed/aligned almost North.
The souterrains and cashels monument numbers are not consecutively grouped together; as normally experienced. Need exercise caution when researching adjacent sites.
Cashel CL016-020026, contains souterrain CL016-020037 (ITM 0523227 x 0693811).
Cashel CL016-020036, contains *souterrain CL016-020025 (ITM 0523183 x 0693969)*
Both souterrain sites are one hundred and sixty metres apart; NNW – SSE, of each other.
Court Tomb, (CL016-020029), (ITM523316 x 693904), is one hundred, twenty metres northeast of the Cashel. Its accepted age of construction suggesting a farming presence since 4500BCE.



Imagery constructed within Archaeology. ie

Relative locations to the road junction

31st January Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
Cloud 100%: Wind NW F4: Visibility 10Nm: Ground sodden: tiny stream: The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. PMcG cleared the floor from the base of "The Gap", along the east and west walls to -25.5m. Doing so has exposed the return of "The Gap", widening gradually after briefly healing up: presently 0.225m wide at -25.5m. The undercutting of the eastern wall has assumed the vertical; close to "The Crevice". A survey would precisely plot the East wall's proximity to "The Crevice". With the area levelled to bedrock, viewed by digger and surface, there is the faint hint of the outline of a sub-circular pothole. The steady work produced thirty-five kibbles, of which nine were a matrix of wet gravels, containing a minor amount of silt/clay. Of the seven sessions this month, four were maintenance, three digging. Barrow planking found to be stable; reducing effort expended when barrowing spoil.

Generator ¼ full: no fuel on site. Digging light needs replacing, doing so will allow its lowering to three metres above the shaft bottom (-22.5m). A cracking session.

Hours 9 (3132), Southend (2082) Kibbles 35 (6292), Nets 0 (924), Total lifts 7224

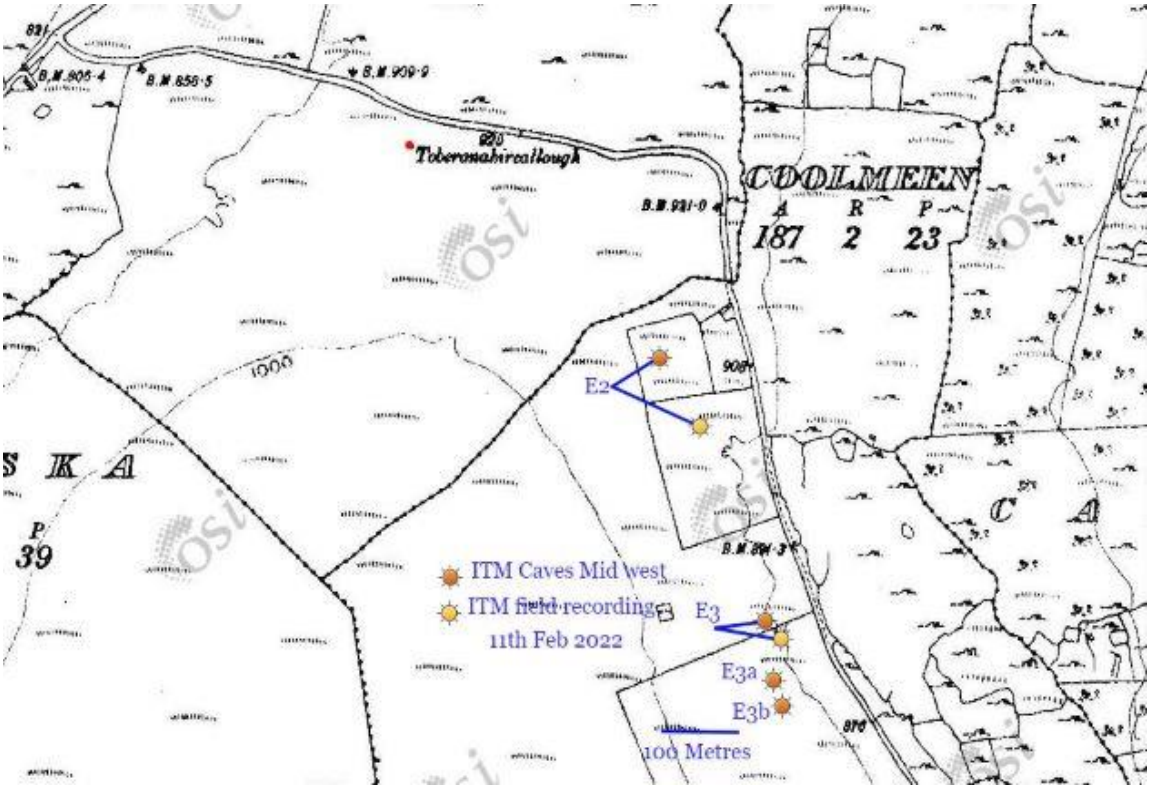
4th February Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester
Cloud 90%: Wind NW, F5/6: Dam cold: Visibility 20Nm: Ground awash: medium stream: The Plan: maintenance. PC changed the shaft bottom light for a cluster of three halogen lights; positioning the lamp fitting three metres above the shaft floor. Securing a length of dive line to the light, to locate it away from the travel line; illumination is excellent. Alas, one bulb failed, requiring replacement. Drilled and inserted five 12mm rebar steps, down the face of "The Gap", at ten-inch centers. The lowest step some 50mm off the floor at -25m. Set up the laser level, to install a stainless-steel screw, (datum), at -25m, located in the west wall, at the south end of "The Gulley". The narrowest part of "The Gulley" is 0.4m. Drained the small pool, creating a gutter to the north. The wall which surrounds "Paul's Pot" is now a minimum of 1.5m above present floor level. Washed mud and debris from the walls, to enhance photography. Previously noted by PMcG, the east wall, between "The Gap" and the outer wall of "Paul's Pot", gently sloped under to the east; now resuming the vertical: estimated distance from the east wall to the "The Crevice", about two metres. The large, rectangular boulder, which has followed the dig downwards, these many months, was secured with a double loop of dive line and raised from -25m to -22.5m. Intending to use it as a threshold, securing the topmost stone of the ginging in place; located at the bottom of the second section of fixed ladder. As the boulder reached -24m the winch stopped from excessive weight; the remaining distance was gingerly negotiated by the senior winchman. Maneuvering the lump through "The Gap" was cautiously conducted, unfortunately mostly from beneath it. Returned the short, timber ladder to surface, creating more room. Generator ¼ full: no fuel on site. CC unavailable Monday: could, perhaps, conduct surveying into the north shaft?

Hours 5 (3137), Southend (2087) Kibbles 0 (6292), Nets 0 (924), Total lifts 7224

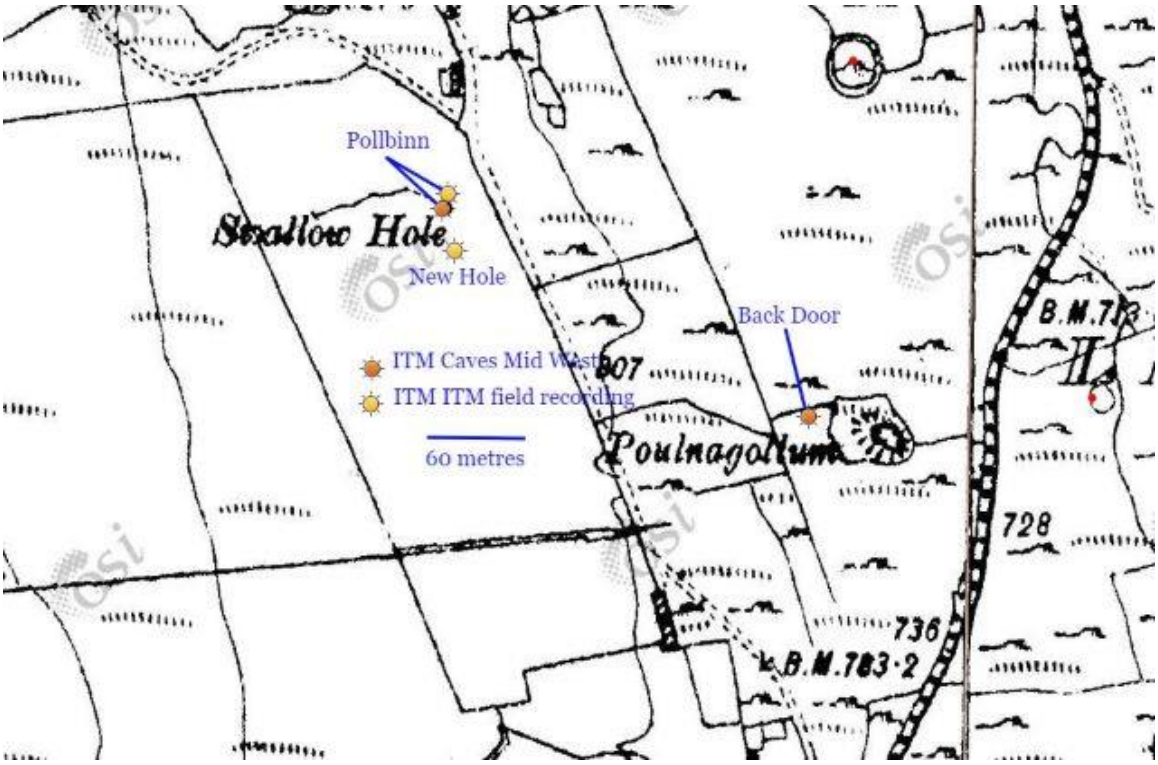
6th February Poulsallagh to Poulnafearbui
Solo
Cloud 60%: Wind WNW, F7/8: Visibility 30Nm: Heavy showers: Ground wet, ponding in fields: The Plan: prospecting walk. Dropped by Pauline at Poulsallagh Bay. Behind the storm beach, at the end of the dry valley, found the shallow depression developing a collapse; two metres diameter and one metre deep: in good quality, soft soil, could not get close enough to see its true depth. Unsure if "sink" is due to recent strong westerlies pushing the sea over the storm beach, to drain back via this spot: but don't think so. Neither has there been enough recent rainfall to flood the valley. No GPSR, so location by eye. Noted from Cashel, CL008-021---, about a kilometre due east, is an area containing vegetation, the channel suggests a short valley; potential resurgence? At Poulnafearbui, little evidence of recent visitors. Fraggle Rock; attempted enter to assess ingress of sea washed debris; the waves washing the terrace decided otherwise. Ascending the coast, rain showers arrived, with a vengeance. Walked the boreen to the Church; now a soggy mass, rang Pauline's Taxi service to arrange a pick up.

11th February E3 – E2 – Pollbinn – New Hole
Paul McGrath
Cloud 100%: Wind WNW, F4: Ground wet. The Plan: accurately establish the location of E2 and northern limit of Poulnagollum. Delighted PMcG called; announcing available to play this afternoon. Explained plan; inviting him join the trip. Some time back Michael Fitz', owner of Caherbullog souterrain, announced a cave entrance on his land. Have since wondered if E2 could be the one, and the same? Parked at Poulnagollum, took the Drover's Road, passing out Caherbullog farm.


Poulsallagh cave
Fanore 10 minutes
Collapse
Dry Valley
60 metres
Doolin 10 minutes
Dry Valley


Toberomahircallough
COOLMEEN
A R P
187 2 23
E2
ITM Caves Mid west
ITM field recordings
11th Feb 2022
E3
E3a
E3b
100 Metres

Reconciling published ITM locations E2 and E3



New site in relation to Pollbinn and Poulnagoillum

Examined the large, unrecorded sink, adjacent Poulnagollum, found its potential openings choked. Followed the road; located E3; continued, located E2; some distance north from its published ITM; delighted to establish this northern limit of the Poulnagollum system. Disappointed to note domestic refuse in the E3 depression. The cave entrance reported by MF, is somewhere northeast of E2; cracking to be sure of a potential new site. Next task, relocate Pollbinn; long since visited. Modern forestry helped obscure the memory. Quickly found Pollbinn, barely thirty metres within the forestry margin, surrounded by a drystone wall. Further on, thrilled to encounter a good size, unrecorded stream sink. Plenty of evidence indicates it takes a lot more water than the present stream. Pulling aside lumps of humus, enabled a vertical view of two metres to a gently sloping bedding, seemingly a half a metre high and maybe a metre wide; all beautifully sculpted and thoroughly washed clean. Its approach is a nice illustration how a stream leaves the shale upland, meanders across karst, finally locating an opening: the area an absolute delight. Will return with the team and kit: beware the lively fencing.

E2	ITM 515389 x 704994 (Field):	QGIS UBSS ITM 515424 x 704952
E3	ITM 515488 x 704743 (Field):	QGIS UBSS ITM 515477 x 704749
E3a		QGIS UBSS ITM 515479 x 704694
E3B	ITM	QGIS UBSS ITM 515503 x 704660
Pollbinn	ITM 515892 x 793833	QGIS UBSS ITM 515889 x 703824
Pollnua		
ITM		QGIS UBSS ITM 515744 x 704082

Overflow: ITM 515896 x 703800. All taken with a Garmin GPSmap 64s. (11th Feb 2022).

12th February Tony Dingle's memorial tree planted, Thrupe Lane.
14th February Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
Cloud 80%: Wind WNW, F4/5: Cold: Visibility 35Nm: Ground sodden: small stream. The Plan: Dig. PMcG focused on the area in front of "The Gap", aiming to create a working face of a metre depth to progress the dig southward. Around -24.5m, the eastern wall resumes undercutting eastward, toward the area of "The Crevice"; located within "Paul's Pot". Thirty kibbles were produced; ten of a gravel/cobble matrix; the remainder boulders. To facilitate digging this area in front "The Gap", intend to install a belay to redirect the Travel line into this area, reducing the need to drag kibbles up onto the surface of "The Gulley" at -25m, to reach the hauling line. At end of session, floor level of the northern half of the main shaft was lowered to ≈ -25.5m: only 7.5m to equal the depth of Poulelva. Generator ¾ full: Fuel PMcG: no fuel on site.
Hours 9 (3146), Southend (2096) Kibbles 30 (6322), Nets 0 (924), Total lifts 7254

17th February Storm Dudley.

18th February Storm Eunice 130km winds; 170km recorded off Fastnet light.

19th February ICRO rescue practice. Poulnagrai.

20th February Storm Franklin

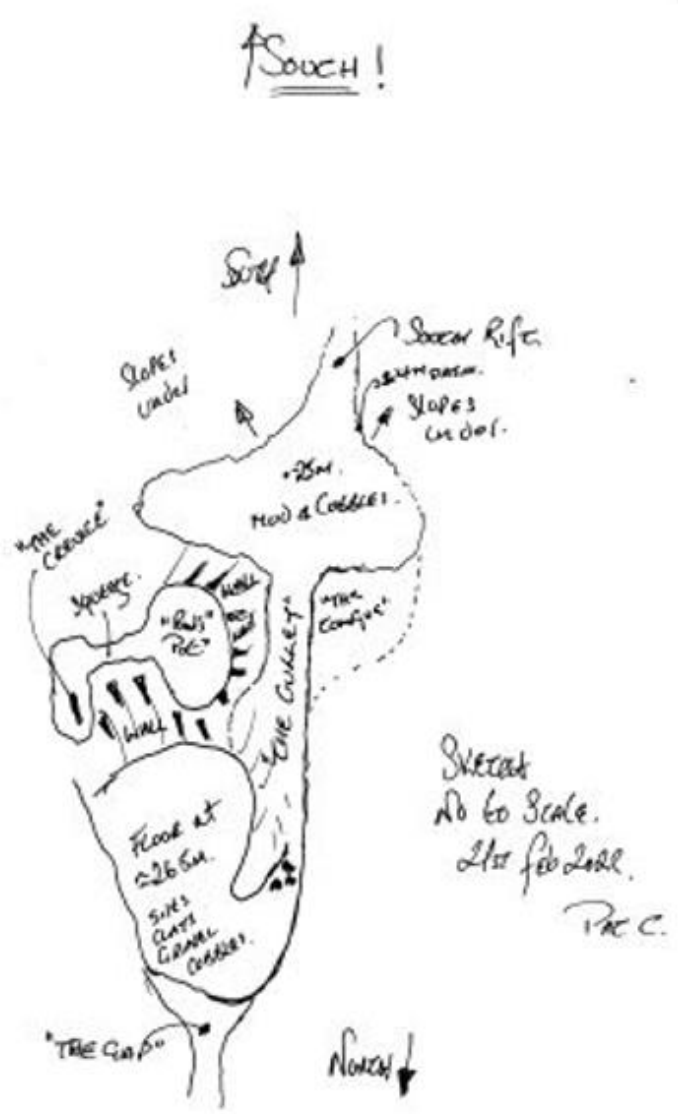
21st February Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
Cloud 100%, base 600ft: Wind W, F2: Visibility 2Nm: Ground sodden: large stream. The Plan: Dig. PMcG resumed digging the area in front of "The Gap", but not along "The Gulley, southwards. Previous wet gravels and cobbles continued being removed until around -26m, where an increased percentage of clays and silts turned the mass glutinous.
PMcG gradually exposed curious features; the previously imagined shape, suggesting a shaft, or pot appears to have been accurate. The east wall at around -26.5m appears to be cutting sharply underneath, toward "The Crevice". The west wall seems to be continuing vertically downwards, at the same time developing a radius which flows around to "The Gap". The initial lift was a one hundred and twenty kilo boulder; hauled using a 2:1 system. Reinstalled the 1:1 system, raising thirty kibbles, consisting of gravels and cobbles. Many thoughts arose, concerning the practicalities of hauling from this new pot, as did issues digging the south rift area. The depth today is estimated as about -26.5m; close to the maximum depth in the North End shaft, and close to the depth of "Paul's Pot". Generator almost ¾ full: Fuel CC and PC: one can fuel on site. Further digging this area requires thought, installing a belay to secure the Travel line, to aid the digger.
Hours 9 (3155), Southend (2105) Kibbles 30 (6352), Nets 1 (925), Total lifts 7285

22nd February Russia enters the Ukrainian "rebel areas"; it's a prelude to invasion.

23rd February Russia invades Ukraine

25th February Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester

Cloud 100%: Wind W, F2: Visibility 20Nm: Ground sodden: medium stream. The Plan: Survey/Maintenance. CC support, PC below. Established a plumbline down “Paul’s Pot” off the -22.5m datum, a stainless-steel screw; in situ. The floor of the squeeze, through to the cavity beyond, was measured at -26m, 1.9m in length, along a bearing of 111˚Mg; reciprocal recorded as, 291˚Mg. The line of “The Crevice” was sighted along, as best as practicable; with a bearing of 021˚Mg. “The Crevice” was examined; providing a clearer idea of its form and nature. “The Crevice” has formed in conjunction with “Paul’s Pot”. This minor, localized widening is on the thin vertical joint, coming from the North End shaft. “The Crevice” tapers in width, over its 500mm length, from 40mm to 100mm. A small stream, estimated similar in flow to that sinking in the North End was clearly heard chuckling away. Below “The Crevice” its east and west walls are seen to widen, seemingly quite quickly; silt covered cobbles slope gently down to the north. PMcG previously noted the fill is loose in this cavity, just beyond the squeeze from “Paul’s Pot”; but can wait. Observations of the east wall, in the present dig location, strongly suggests this will continue to undercut and meet up with the development below “The Crevice”.



Sketch of Considines; features forming adjacent “The Gap” in relation to “Paul’s Pot”

View down into the area adjacent “The Gap”, -26.2m

From the -24m datum, adjacent “The Gap”, the floor of the present dig site in the South End, was established at -26.2m; 0.2m deeper than “The Crevice” in “Paul’s Pot”. A Chert bed has occurred at -25.4m; also visible in “Paul’s Pot”. The thin vertical joint, developing off the dig area along a southeasterly direction, is widening as it deepens and heads toward “The Crevice”. “The Gap” continues its path down, at an average of 0.2m wide; a further step installed today. The rebar steps now constitute a climb of almost four metres. Below the Chert bed the outer wall of “Paul’s Pot” slopes toward the east, following, perhaps helping form the undercutting. Two 16mm holes were drilled to create a belay for the travel line. This slightly offset, from the near vertical route, will mean the digger does not having to climb up, out this sump, onto “The Gulley” at -25m, to connect a kibble onto the hauling line. The bolt is greased, easy to secure and loosen, therefore easy to relocatable.
The dry area of walls is obvious; dry enough to strike matches upon. Strongly suggesting a decent air flow, appearing originate from the area of “Paul’s Pot”. Photographs taken, but too late, much mist present. The main’s digging light was lowered and re-positioned; the faulty bulb replaced. Data of “Paul’s Pot” survey is available for inclusion in the next survey. Relative depths; “Paul’s Pot 26m: South End 25.1m: Shaft beneath “The Gap” 26.2m. Generator a little under ¾ full: Full on site.

NB: Suggested the present dig be sunk to -28m; potentially allowing the Team establish a connection to the area below "The Crevice". With the smaller floor area depth will be swiftly achieved. Hours 4 (3159), Southend (2109) Kibbles 0 (6352), Nets 0 (925), Total lifts 7285

25th February Considine's
Relative depths of floor surfaces, north to south.

Far North:	-10m,	UBSS, ≈1983? ladder tethered outside pot; belay extant.
North End:	-26m,	depth established from floor surface of working platform.
Middle Pot	-26.2m,	----------ditto----------
Paul's Pot	-26m	----------ditto----------
South End rift	-25.1m,	----------ditto----------

Depth survey datums established at 22.5m, 24m and 25m.

26th February Pollantobar, (Happy Heather Hole entrance)
Solo
ITM 515014 x 705323
Cloud 100%: Wind SE, F6, gusting F8: Ground wet. The Plan: relocate a potential unfilled entrance. Parked at Faunarooska Cross; walked in. Seemed to recall the tiny hole was located on the sloping ground to the south of the line of the cave. Found by Mike McDonald, following the laughter from the surveyors below.
Began gingerly, searching some ten metres west of the Holy Well, poking among the knee-deep grass for the invisible hole. Followed a zig-zag pattern for some fifteen metres without any luck. Believed to be searching a little too high, dropped back down onto the limestone area. For some reason took notice of a single, scrawny looking heather plant. Poked the area before it with a walking pole, (curtain rod), found hole; delighted. The pot entrance appears almost three metres deep. Took photos. The landowner has pursued a program of filling in shallow openings, following losing an average of two cattle annually. Will attempt persuade MF, to allow a cover be fitted, to maintain access. Have already arranged to take him into the souterrain he owns, will extend invite to descend here. He is a very nice bloke.

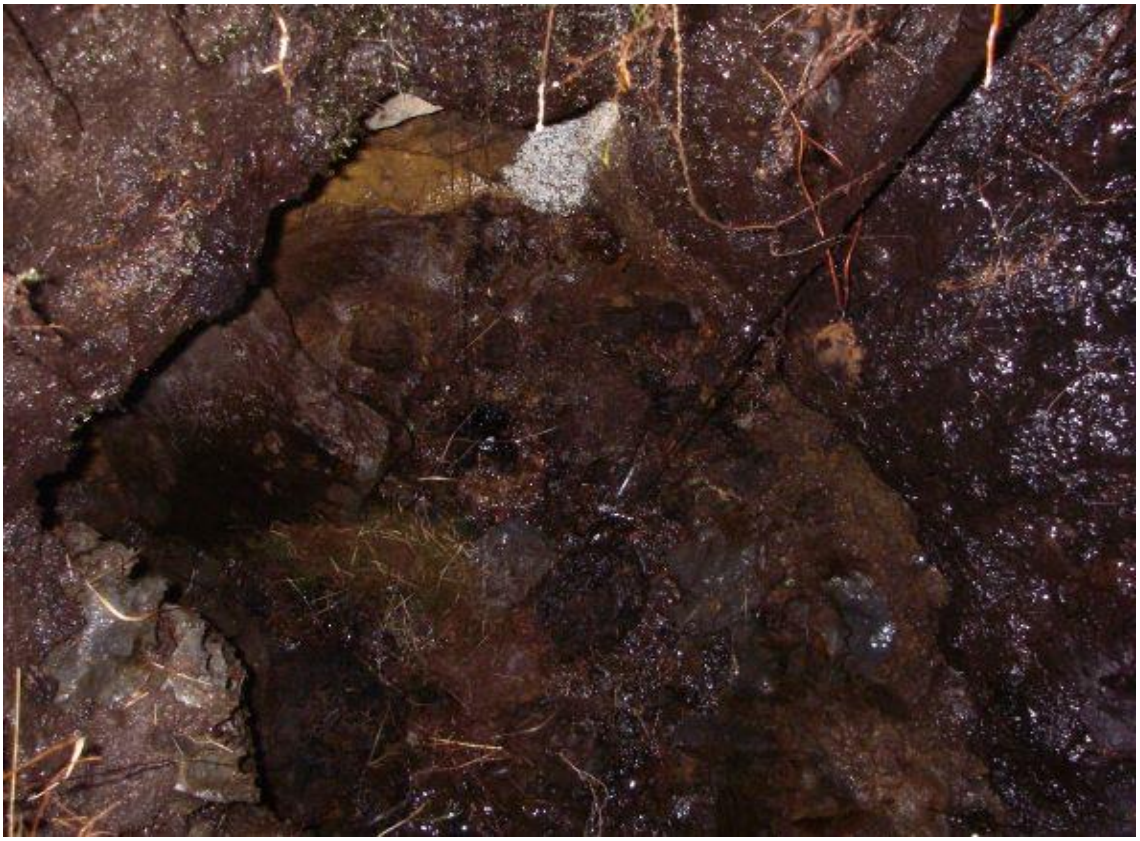
View Southeast; Toberanahircallough

View east to Toberanahircallough, Happy Heather Hole, in between the gloves.

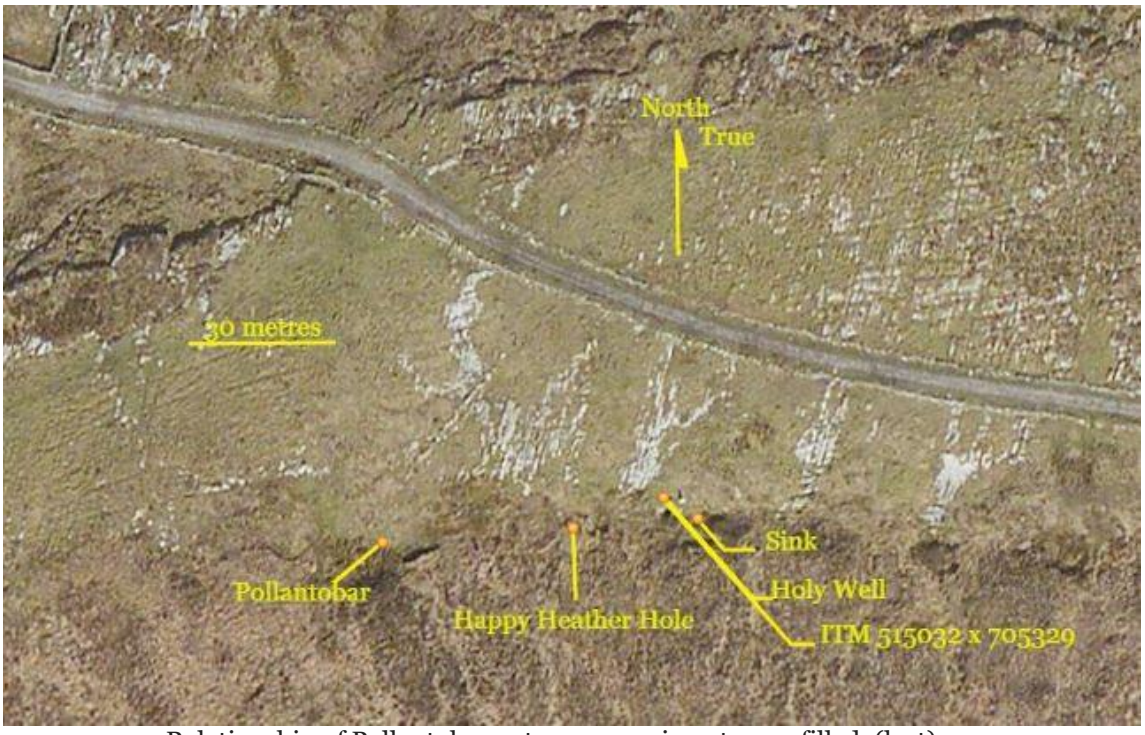
View South Happy Heather Hole, in front of the solitary heather plant.

View East, Happy Heather Hole, in between gloves.

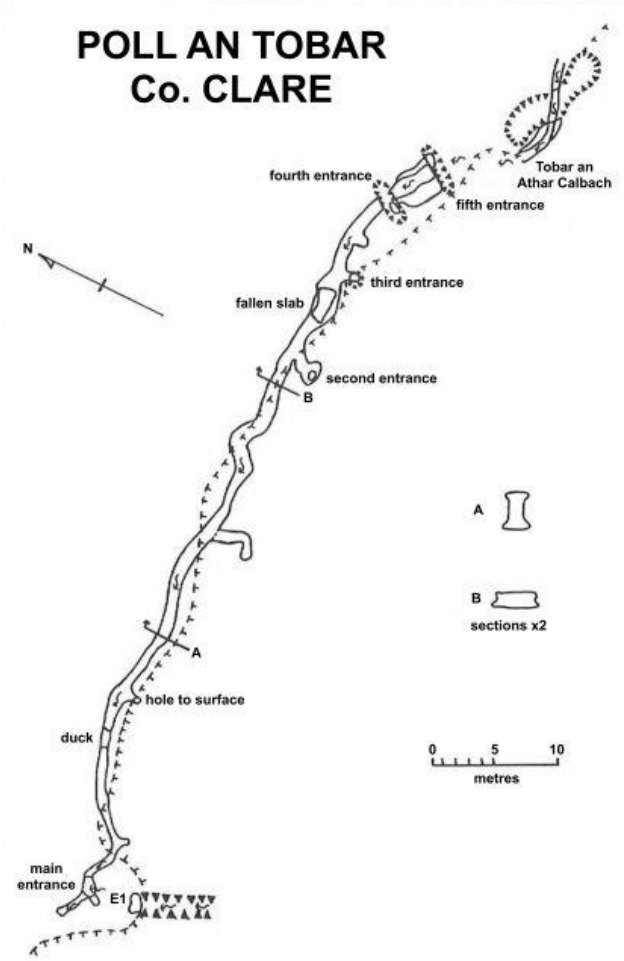
Happy Heather Hole, partially exposed



View down, Happy Heather Hole, 2.5 metres



Relationship of Pollantobar entrances, main entrance filled, (lost).



28th February Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath, Matt Randall,
Cloud 95%, clearing: Wind WNW, F4: Visibility 20Nm: Ground sodden: small stream. The Plan: Dig. CC winching: MR and PMcG Digging: PC unloading and barrowing. PMcG continued lowering the floor of the area in front "The Gap". The sloping wall, which divides this area of the main shaft from "Paul's Pot", has gradually become the floor, as it passes beneath the eastern wall. The undercutting eastern wall is gradually becoming the roof to this passage. Is this local development an effect of the adjacent chert bed occurrence? Deployed a tape measure from the working platform; floor surface measured at -26.55m, (87ft). Viewed northeasterly, a distance of one metre is visible, horizontally, between roof and natural deposits. This section feels like it will soon meet with the stream heard last session. This area of development will present challenges for hauling. If, the expected, adjacent rift is capable of being dug. Requiring the hauling system to be offset; similar to that used to dig out "Paul's Pot". Thirty kibbles were raised and one net. Generator ½ full: fuel on site. Drip noted, from the generator fuel tap. Maintenance tasks arising.

Hours 12 (3171), Southend (2121) Kibbles 30 (6382), Nets 1 (926), Total lifts 7316

28th February Last day of Irish mandatory Covid restrictions.

3rd March Symptoms of Covid, following IRCG duties Tuesday

3rd March (2005) Lost Martin Bishop, so sorely missed

4th March Considines (South End)
Solo
Cloud 10%: Wind, NW F2: Visibility >30Nm: Ground sodden: small stream. The Plan: maintenance. A short session, to resolve petrol leak on generator. Found it a small fracture of the stiff pvc hose leaving the tank tap; trimmed ½ inch of tube, connected same.
Reflected on recent developments. Seen down through "The Crevice", are cobbles; none of whom could have passed through "The Crevice", being an average of 50mm wide. The bedrock scoop, exposed last session, sweeps toward the northeast, somewhat similar to the form the North End took prior to becoming the short passage, which finished at the 100mm wide, parallel rift. The cobbles could not have passed through "The Crevice, nor travelled from the North End. So, there is sufficient space for these cobbles to have been transported horizontally toward "The Crevice"; (potentially the after or cumulative effects of Glacial action?). The space between the floor at -26.5m and the forming roof, is somewhat bigger than the North End. Optimistically, will find a continuing, vertical rift of diggable proportions, a little offset from the main shaft. If this area closes there is still the area in front the South Rift.
Hours 2 (3173), Southend (2123) Kibbles 0 (6382), Nets 0 (926), Total lifts 7316

6th March Antigen test shows positive for Covid.

7th March (11:10) Positive Covid PCR Test, Ennis.

16th March Tested clear of Covid

17th March St. Patrick's Day Parade Doolin; Doolin IRCG Unit won 1st prize

19th March Sliabh Eilbh Project
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
13:00. First trip after recovering from the Covid. Cloud 20%: Wind SE, F6, gusting F8: Visibility >30Nm: Ground damp. The Plan, push the hole found the 11th Feb. PMcG made the short, vertical clamber into the low bedding. This is some ten metres in total length, with little prospects of going further. Adjacent, this hole a water conduit, cut naturally beneath the overburden, accesses exposed limestone beneath trees and their root systems. Digging is possible. Exiting the hole, CC called, directing the team to view another hole. All but obscured among the pine needle floor surface; a 0.6m diameter hole was descended three metres to a rift, from its northeast end another, partially choked rift reaches -4m. After a minor amount of digging, a view of an undercutting bed offers a reward, if a few more hours of digging are pursued. Exiting this site, CC directed the team to another hole, initially seeming of lesser potential. This entrance, similar to the previous cave, is also set among the pine needle surface. The top of this almost three metre pot, undercuts part of the surface, humic cover. Pulling aside allowed room for PMcG to descend; having been offered the privilege as first to enter an unexplored cave. Glimpses through an adjacent, narrow gryke, suggested an attainable depth of at least four to five metres. At the end of the short entrance section, PMcG entered a three-metre diameter chamber, with a narrow rift heading off; an hour was spent removing the lose fill from the base of the rift to access beyond. Return trip planned: delighted.

Photo Cheg Chester
Stream channel, to Pipework Pot
Pollbinn entrance, some thirty metres, behind photographer

Photo Cheg Chester
Pat shouting encouragement to Paul in Pipework Pot

Photo Cheg Chester

Entrance to Tombstone Pot

Photo Cheg Chester

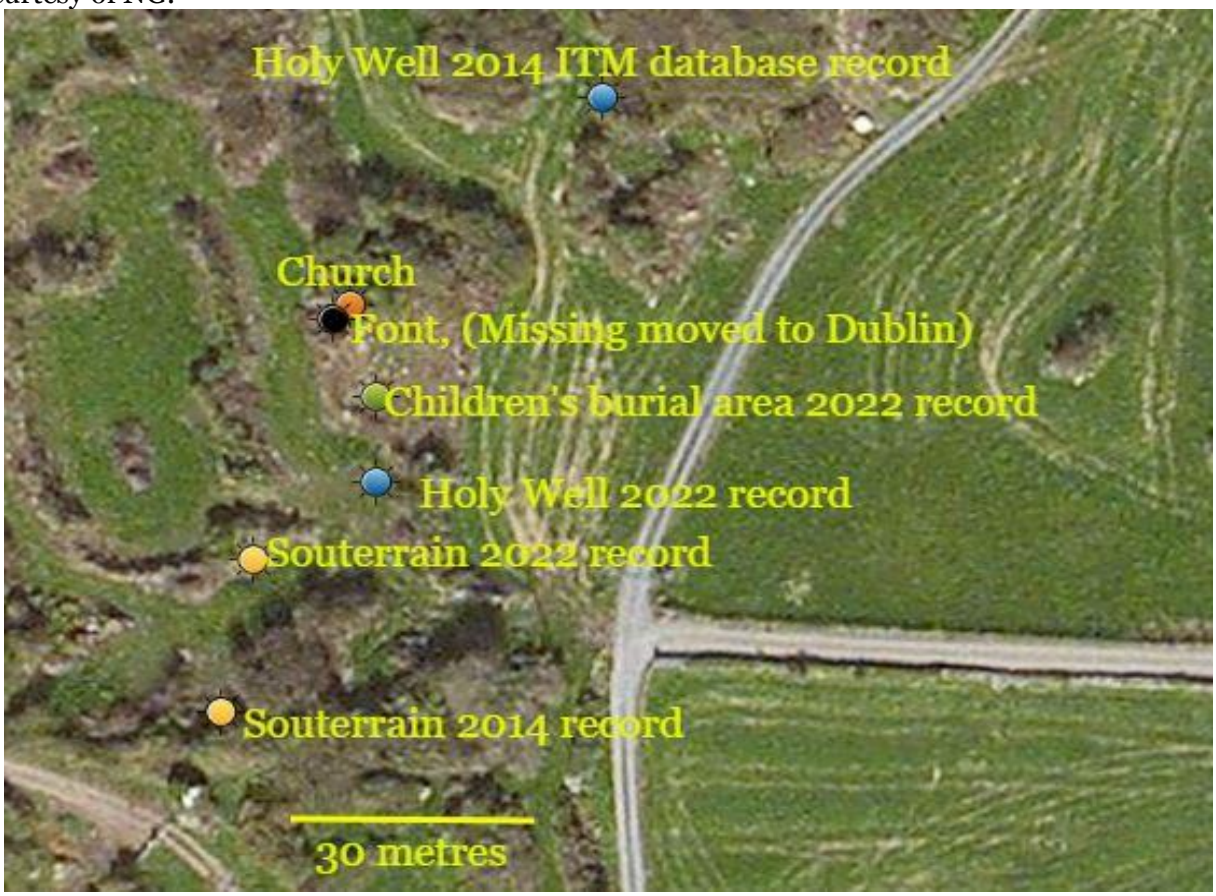
Paul exiting Castaway Pot

Photo Cheg Chester
Paul and Pat after digging in Castaway Pot

21st March Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
Cloud 90%: Wind SE, F4: Visibility >30Nm: Ground drying: small stream: The Plan: Dig. Disaster; the winch would not run; the motor suffering from a bust capacitor. Meanwhile PMcG descended and filled the remaining kibbles. There are twelve awaiting lifting. A little miffed at not being able to dig this last fortnight; bugger. Generator ¾ full: no fuel on site. Hope to obtain unit and fit, prior to next Monday's session.
Hours 3 (3176), Southend (2126) Kibbles 0 (6382), Nets 0 (926), Total lifts 7316

23rd March Souterrain CL004-057004, Oughtdarra.
Nick Geh
Cloud 30%: Wind SE, F4: Visibility 30Nm: Ground drying, no rain these last seven days.
The Plan: guide NG to the Holy Well within the ecclesiastical settlement of Oughtdarra.
Records taken from the national database digital map, suggested a location at variance with that recorded in the 2014 database; today ITM 510240 x 701754. Previously recorded as, ITM 510267 x 701804 in 2014. This puts the Holy Well some sixty metres SSE from the 2014 location. This ITM gives a location tucked into the corner of the burial area. A feature that could possibly be mistaken as a small enclosed densely foliated ritual site. However, after NG cleared some briars, the feature remains unclear. Were a Holy Well here, within the graveyard enclosure, it would not have experienced the early 20th century land clearance obvious in the surrounding area. While NG worked, PC compared the 2014 souterrain map reference, (ITM 510221 x 701724), with the 2022 ITM, which is now ITM 510225 x 701744. The modern reference places it adjacent the substantial garden wall that encloses much of the ecclesiastical site. This feels wrong; it is more likely the souterrain was a natural cave utilized for the purposes of refuge, or storage, by

clerics and hiding church valuables. Left site for Doolin Cave café, enjoyed Tea and Medals, curtesy of NG.



Comparison of recorded nationally archaeological map references.

25th March Clocks Spring forward

27th March Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester
Cloudless: Wind SE, F2/3: Visibility <20Nm: Ground drying: tiny stream: The Plan: maintenance. Replacement capacitor sent by JW was fitted: but issues remained, pointing to capacitor, still. En-route to his place, to pick up another, CC realized this motor, from an industrial sewing machine, had an interior switching system, that disconnected the capacitor once the motor started; believing this the principal issue, the motor was stripped out of the winch and carried back to the workshop. Little chance of digging tomorrow.
Hours 7 (3183), Southend (2133) Kibbles 0 (6382), Nets 0 (926), Total lifts 7316

28th March Castaway Pot, Sliabh Eilbh Project
Paul McGrath
Cloudless: Wind SW, F2: Visibility <10Nm, haze: Ground drying: No rain these twelve days. The Plan: Dig the choked crawl. Parked adjacent the track to Pollbinn. Took along two rakes, used same to reach in, and drag out the loose shale fragments and clays from the crawl. Removing the loose debris, exposed gaps in the floor, which suggests the crawl is a partially filled rift passage. After an hour, and almost tonne of debris, a pit was created from the base of which horizontal progress was made. PMcG managed to push four metres beyond the squeeze into a wider bit. Here the joint turned a right angle, and after a metre or so split again, ahead it narrows, to the

left it continues in much the same form. Depth some six metres, length about ten metres; give or take. Exiting to a glorious warm early evening, thoughts turned to drink. Meandering back PMcG drew attention to a very recent collapse. Though noted previously, forgotten, in pursuit of Pipework Pot. This site will also feed into Upper Poulnagollum; worth digging for the hell of it. To the Irish Arms, for pints; encountered "Billy", long chat to catch up on the last while: cracking day. Survey to follow.

31st March Castaway Pot, Pipework Pot, Tombstone Pot, Sliabh Eilbhe Project
Solo
Cloud <5%: Wind E, F4/5: Cold: Visibility, forever: Ground damp: The Plan: Establish positions of entrances. Parked at Poulnagollum. Found gap in wall off the track. Stepped over to check the area, a little way beyond where Cheg had previously searched. Planning, work north, back toward the new sites. Close to the track found a large, intermittent sink, sink 1. A little further on, found another, a collapse, sink 2; two metres deep: eminently diggable. Suspected establishing GPSR fixes on the new entrance's problematic; beneath the forest canopy and so close to the eastern slope of the mountain. So, triangulated the entrances back to Pipework pot and a handy tree, both in sight of Pollbinn. Not quite as straightforward as hoped, working among the trees and potential pitfalls. Also recorded the Pollbinn collapse; need double check, with second GPSR. Pollbinn entrance shaft was accurately assessed as where to fix the survey from to fix to the Upper Poulnagollum survey. Finished the afternoon plotting the numbers, which do not quite add up, there are discrepancies; need repeat process, ideally with an extra pair of hands to achieve a decent level of accuracy.

GPSR ITM's recorded beneath canopy, errors present.

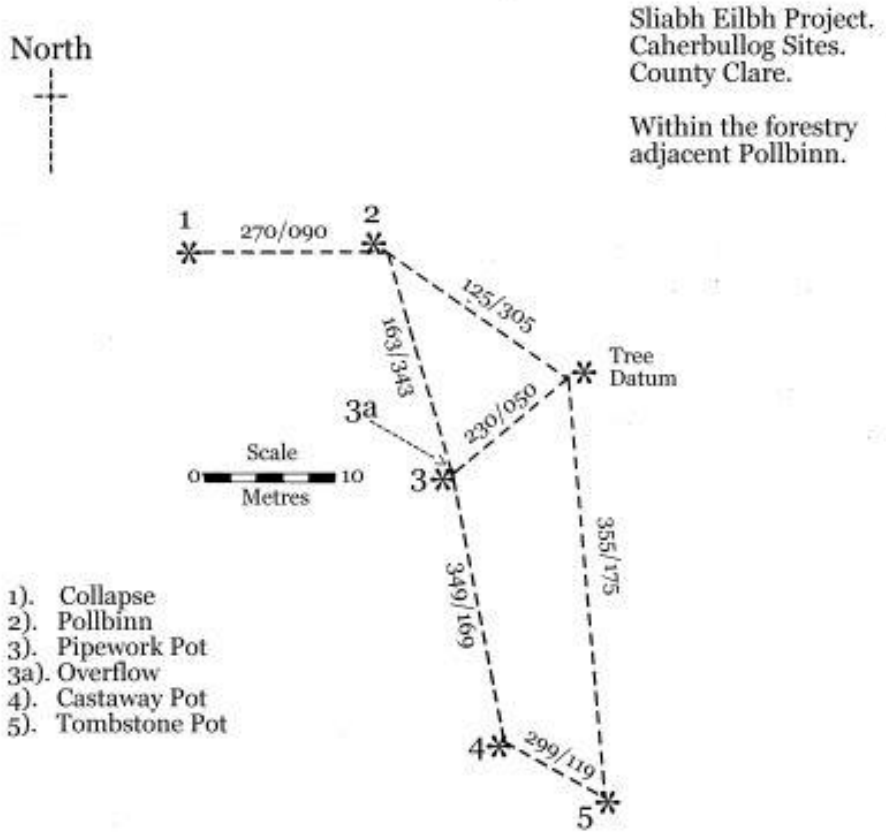
Attempt reconciling locations, prior to using datums established along track.

3rd April Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester
Cloud 90%: Wind NE, F2: Visibility 20Nm: Ground drying: tiny stream: The Plan: maintenance. CC had stripped the winch motor apart and found it sound in wind and limb. Carefully scraping the paint from the old condenser PC exposed the date, Feb/69, and eventually found its rating; 288Mf. CC assemble three condensers with a combined value of 153Mf; getting the unit to start. The motor has a very heavy, internal flywheel; CC believes this is what requires the large condenser value. The present assembly needs replacing with appropriate contained, multiples, or a single condenser. In the meantime, it will work, and allow digging to recommence. PC removed the three condensers to fit into a container, for the moment. Delighted to resume digging tomorrow. Hours 5 (3188), Southend (2138) Kibbles 0 (6382), Nets 0 (926), Total lifts 7316

4th April Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
Cloud 100%; base 500ft: Wind W, F4, gusting F6: Visibility 0.2Nm: Ground damp: The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. Fitted the tubular condenser container; fired up the winch. Minor squeaks and a rattle or two emerged from the winch, but soon settled. This is a temporary fix whilst awaiting other condensers. PMcG followed the shaft, at the base of "The Gap", down to the northeast. The going was tough enough in the gradual, reducing passage size. Visible, over the gravel and cobble fill, appears to be the far wall of the rift, visible in "Paul's Pot". At -27.2m, a solid floor was exposed, still sloping northeast: the

passage assuming a crawl/bedding, similar to that found in the North End at -26.5m. The plan is for two to dig this confined, awkward area, to make life easier, fill and stack kibbles, then raise on the next session. Dependent on what is found, work will resume at the far south end floor, presently at around -25m. Thirty kibbles were raised, of which nine were cobbles. The remainder silty gravels. Generator ½ full: no fuel one site.

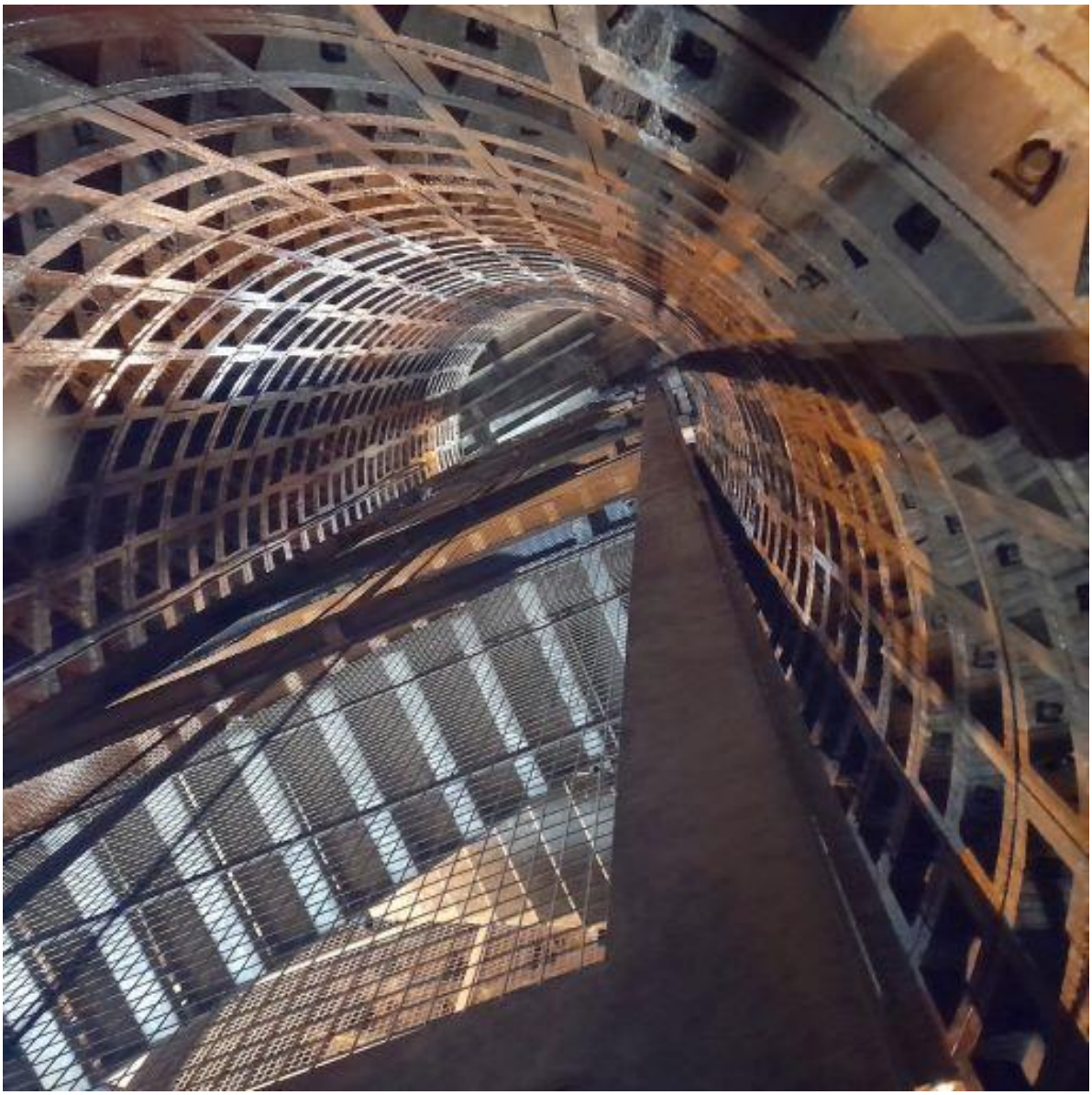
Hours 10 (3198), Southend (2148) Kibbles 30 (6412), Nets 0 (926), Total lifts 7346



Triangulation of the features was required, as the dense forest canopy, and steep mountain slope, inhibited accurate GPSR signals. The procedure was established from a suitable tree, visible from all entrance locations. The survey was extended to Pollbinn and the collapse beyond. The datum at Pollbinn is an elevated rock, on the east side of its perimeter drystone wall. Pollbinn was the logical site from which to hang the survey, as its adjacent sink is easy to locate from six, or twenty five inch ordanance survey maps.

NB.
Sinks and collapses found 31st March 2022 are not included.

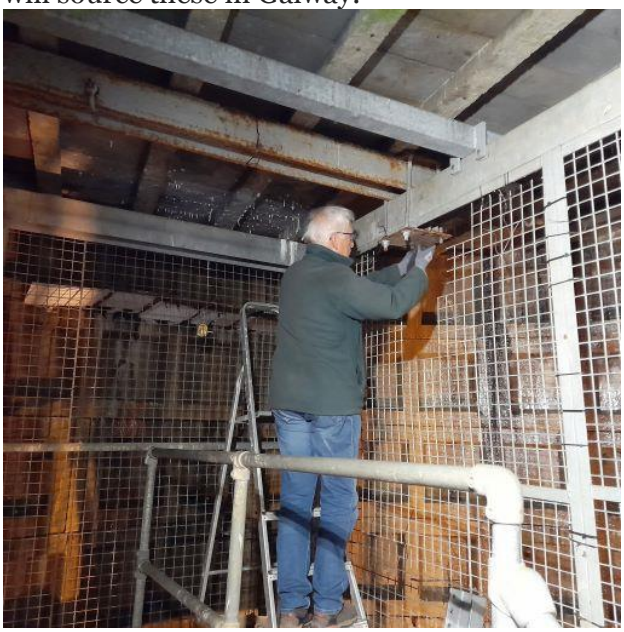
5th April Caherconnell, Kilcorney
Solo
Cloud 100%: Wind W, F4, gusting F6: Visibility 20Nm. Arranged to meet with Drs Comber and McCarthy. NUIG summer school is from 6th June until 15th July. Conducted stock take of tools and equipment.



Poulanionain entrance shaft Photo Cheg Chester

7th April Poulanionain
Nick Geh, John Browne Cheg Chester
Cloud 60%: Wind NW, F4: Ground damp: Had been asked by John Brown to solve the issue of lifting a kibble of clay up the entrance shaft. Suggested a counterbalance system. NG prepared the steel channel; securing same to the metal work in the shaft top required three pairs of hands. Set up the hauling rope and installed 25mm pulleys. Lateral metal work that is the frame of the steps, to the base of the shaft, ≈ -25m, occasionally protrudes, so 2 x ringbolts are required to

distance the centre of lift ropes further out into the shaft, away from the horizontal RSJ's; NG will source these in Galway.



NG preparing an existing support.

Counter balance pulleys; Photos Cheg Chester

11th April Considine's (South End)
Pete and Isha Mulholland, Jim and Roisin Dempster
Cloud 100%, base 1100ft. Wind NW, F3/4: Ground damp: No stream: The Plan: tourist visit. Most to -26m. PM, a geologist, provided insight to cave's development. Requested could he supply a brief synopsis of his observations. Later conversation realized Roisin was Sheila Lunny's, sister, a good pal, sister to Donal Lunny, (Planxty); it's a small world.

Observations on Considines, by Pete Mulholland.
A large solution feature cutting down through carboniferous limestone that has been choked with glacial moraine. The rock can be described as an argillaceous wackestone with both brachiopod fossils (your oyster) and cherty nodules. Silicious sponge remains. Of note were black discs the cores of which had calcite and pyrite mineralization. The technical term for these nodules is geodes These have formed around a void in the sponge rich mud. The silica from the sponge has formed a chalcedony wall around a core that infilled through slow fluid flow with calcite crystals and pyrite crystals. It's the iron sulphide in the pyrite that makes the geode heavy. When the limestone was initially laid down it would have been in a backreef tropical lagoon. Not so far from a coastline that provided a source of clay fraction that makes this limestone grey in colour. Imagine modern great barrier reef inside the outer barriers. The size of the fissure suggests it should connect with a stream passage at depth. The fissure predates the glacial fill, so it is likely the cave first formed during one of the 5 interglacial periods the region has gone through.

14th April Poulanionain
Nick Geh, John Browne
Cloud 100%: Wind W, F2/3: Ground damp: The Plan: further develop the counter balance system. Fitted the bolts, which extended the centre point of the pulley suspension into the shaft by some 80mm. Kibbles were connected then hauled to assess the clearance from the metalwork. The additional distance of 80mm is not enough. Scrutinized belay structure locating the centre of the pulleys. Checked adjacent area; as further adjustment from here would require

an individual hanging out into the -25m shaft; unacceptable for future maintenance. Brainstorming, relocated the entire suspension location to mount on top an adjacent box section RSJ, while doing so redesigned the pulley support structure, as a "T" frame. With the long section of the "T" resting along the RSJ, secured by brackets. Facilitating adjustment of the centre line of the pulleys into the shaft around a maximum of some 300mm, and able to be installed or serviced from within the "Safe" area. Later message from NG; the new support is prepared; will likely fit next Thursday. Celebrations are planned for the 70th anniversary of Poulanionain's discovery, likely attended by Brian Varley (90); held this coming Spring Bank Holiday.

17th April Lost Jim Young, (Templeton, Mendip).

18th April Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
Cloud 60%. Wind NW, F2: Chill: Ground wet: Visibility 30Nm: Tiny stream: The Plan: Dig. CC surface: PMcG and PC digging. Before the Team arrived, PC got the water system working again, blowing out sediment. Also noting a pallet requires replacement. The floor, between "The Gap" and the vertical wall of "Paul's Pot", descends, becoming a sloping passage, gradually assuming the horizontal, to head off southeast; ("The Scoop"). Doing so, inhibits hauling kibbles from this point of excavation, which creeps beneath the eastern wall of the shaft. PMcG previously noted further digging would become increasingly difficult. Suggesting two work this development; one dig, one drag and stack kibbles for later hauling. A floor of bedrock was swiftly proven, extending into the minor rift; along this tiny area, reducing the height of this passage to around 300mm: a voice connection was made through here, with PMcG positioned at "The Crevice" beyond "Paul's Pot". A little disappointed, attention returned to the far South End; two more 8mm holes for ring bolts were drilled to relocate the Travel Line belay at a lower level. Looking south, down into the South Rift, a depth of some three metres is visible. Two further 14mm holes were drilled to accept the Signal Box. PC ascended, leaving PMcG to lower the floor from -25m; the spoil consisting of silty gravel and cobbles. Normal service swiftly resumed; CC winching: PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. The session finished with raising twenty kibbles. PMcG created a working face, following the east wall down to about -26m. Generator close to empty: no fuel on site. Hours 9 (3207), Southend (2157) Kibbles 20 (6432), Nets 0 (926), Total lifts 7366

21st April Poulanionain
Nick Geh, John Browne, Cheg Chester
Cloud 80%: Wind NE, F3: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp. The Plan: install the pulley support bracket. Further to the previous brainstorming, NG fabricated the channel steel support. As planned, it fitted snugly between roof lintels and metal frame, without having to reach out into the shaft to secure it. The irregularity of the RSJs, within the framework, can cause a swinging kibble to catch, so the final task should be to install a travel line for each counter balanced kibble follow away from the side of the metal framework. Secured to ringbolts drilled in the concrete rings at the base of the shaft, suspended, independently from the pulley support bracket. Prior to departure visited the original entrance, now choked by rockfall from the cliff. Depart for France, via UK, Saturday; Shannon-Stanstead.

23rd April Shannon - Stanstead – Cambridge – France – Belgium.
Pauline Cronin
Cloud 75%: Wind NE, F4/6. Dropped by PMC at the airport; picked up by Roger Day and James Cobbett. Over two days packed the Landrover and Sankey trailer, and caroused.

26th April Portsmouth – Ouistreham, Normandy
James Cobbett, Roger Day
JC to the train station, for Portsmouth. Met up with others at the ferry port. Overnight to Ouistreham; berth very comfy.

27th April Longue-Sur-Mer – Arromanches, Ouistreham, Normandy
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter and Steven?
Into Bayeux to establish camp; off to inspect part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall; Longues-sur-Mer battery. Then east to Arromanches to the Mulberry Harbour; overwhelming: into town for food and fun. Found La Tavern de Ducs, cracking; RH, RD and S arrived much later. Cracking food, superb wine. However, the Calvados … is a killer.

28th April Sword Beach – Pegasus Bridge, Normandy.
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter and Steven?
Delayed by S; slow to rise. To Sword Beach. Here, Father, (then aged 23), landed at 07:30, on the 6th June 1944. As an engineer of the 3rd Divisional Engineers, deployed to clear multiple beach obstacles for the next wave of men and materials. To Pegasus Bridge, and museum; humbling. JC, DH and PC to Bayeux for food and fun, a cracking evening.

View East, along Sword Beach.

29th April Bayeux Tapestry – British Commonwealth cemetery – Normandy Museum.
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter

Delayed another hour by S. To the Tapestry, quite breathtaking; the personal audio system very clever and informative, bring the numerous panels to life. To the cemetery, the first visited; serene and troubling. Into the Battle of Normandy Museum, well worth the visit. So good, abandoned visiting Utah museum, also due to the lateness of the hour. Back into Bayeux for drink, food and fun. S appears have little interest in the purpose for this trip.

30th April Amiens, France
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter and Steven?
Moved camp to Amiens; four-hour drive. Set up camp, headed into Dranouter village, Belgium. Few people about; nice food and strong Belgian drink. Others stopped in camp.

1st May Gommecourt – Rossignol Wood – Owl Trench, France.
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter and Steven?
S slow to rise. Visited the Gommecourt battle field, where RD's Grandfather was wounded and captured. RD guided the team among wooded areas; all left untouched since 1918. These areas remain the location of unexploded ordnance, and human remains. The sheer magnitude of the conflict is overwhelming. Back to Dranouter; for a platter of salami, cheese and drink.

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2nd May Lochnagar Crater – South African Memorial – Thiepval, France.
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter and Steven?
S delayed departure again. The colossal crater, formed from a mine packed with ammonal, is a shock. Found a small piece of rail, above the crater lip. Apparently, the handle of a mine hand pump is visible among the foliage in the base of the crater. To the South African Memorial, adjacent Delville Wood; humbling. To Thiepval, the mural in the visitor centre is stunning. Into Amiens for food and drink, a cracking place.

2nd May Phone call from Pauline, regarding Tony Boycott's health.

3rd May Newfoundland Memorial – Hawthorn Ridge - Hawthorn Crater – Albert Tunnels
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter and Steven?
The Newfoundland position at Beaumont Hammel is preserved; most killed or wounded before reaching the Allied front line, such was the fire lain down from the high ground, two kilometres away. To Hawthorn Ridge Crater; the only mine filmed when it exploded: huge. To the tunnels beneath the Church, in the centre of Albert; an excellent place, well displayed. Fantastic meal in a specialist Picardy restaurant, Amiens.

4th May Ypres, Belgium.
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter and Steven?
Struck camp; headed to Ypres. Noted few people about. Found a café in Dranouter, for lunch; back in time to assist RD's huge tent erection, a fine base to operate from.
5th May Wellington Tunnels, Arras – Vimy Ridge, Belgium.
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter

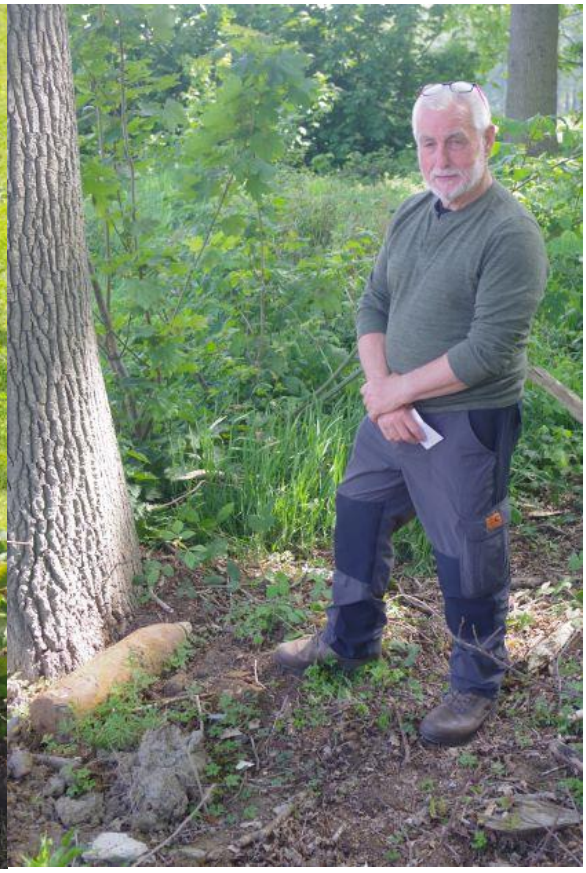
Extensive, 13th century, underground quarries, developed by the New Zealanders to hold 25,000 men, and construct exits close to the German line. On to Vimy Ridge; Canadian Memorial. Unable to visit Grange Subway, as place closing for lunch.

Photo Dig Hastilow

Small part of the Wellington Tunnels.

6th May Railway Dugouts Cemetery– Hill 60 – The Caterpillar – Hooge Crater
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter and Steven?
To Railway Dugouts Cemetery; found Great Uncle Bert Wynn's gravestone memorial, (D23), died of wounds sustained, 01:10, 21st May 1917, during a raid on the enemy lines, to obtain intelligence prior to the Allied assault of Messines Ridge; 7th June 1917. Head stone relates he is buried within the cemetery; Great Uncle Bert's, and so many other precise grave locations remain unknown: the German assault in 1918, severely damaged the cemetery, obliterating the original burials. To Hill 60 and the Caterpillar, both adjacent Mount Sorrel, where Great Uncle Bert was mortally wounded. At the precise raid location, on the German Trench, found a five-inch, unexploded shell, exposed by recent ploughing. JC insisted on poking it with a pointy stick… To Hooge Crater, private museum; quite superb. To The Menin Gate, Ypres, for the "Last Post": some five hundred in attendance. Cracking meal prior to the event, after a wander around the adjacent Museum.

D23. Bert P Wynn; (19). Killed 21st May 1917.



Military map ref of Raid; I.30.a.8.1
Location of BP Wynn's mortal wounding

7th May Maginot Line – Passchendaele Museum Tunnels – Tyne Cot cemetery
Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter and Steven?
Another delayed start. To some Maginot Line bunkers, adjacent the camp site. Then onto the Passchendaele Museum. The multi-level dugout replica is quite stunning. Well worth a visit. To Tyne Cot; the largest commonwealth cemetery. Informed team, wanted to return to the Menin Gate, as being short, saw little yesterday; S remarked he could see it on YouTube. With DH and JC arrived early to grab a fine meal in "Old Tom's" restaurant in the square, arriving at 19:30 for the "Last Post", spoke with an official explaining was a member of the IRCG, invited to stand

within the official's area. Emotionally struck by the unexpected arrival of a Pipe and Drum band; a splendid, touching event.

8th May Ypres – Calais – Cambridge.

Roger Day, Dig Hastilow, James Cobbett, Robert Hunter and Steven?

06:30, began to strike camp, though ferry, (sailing 13:15); only ninety minutes away, striking camp and packing trailer estimated as needing an hour, or so. Allowing a relaxed drive for RD. Still no so sign of S at 08:10. Pressed on packing trailer; delayed whilst S wandered about, requiring use of the cooking facilities. Panic appearing in S, packing the kit around him; Landrover and trailer packed by 09:30. Agreed DH and JC should go ahead. All met up at ferry terminal; naughty people in the Duty-Free attempted overcharge an alert DH, much to their mental cost. Ninety-minute crossing. RD's place by 17:00. Rita prepared a superb roast.

9th May Grimes Graves

Roger Day, James Cobbett.

An hour away from RD's place, sped off to enjoy the opportunity of this impromptu visit. On arrival the place was closed; limited opening hours remain following the Covid. Bugger; went to the bar. To the curry house, for a superb Biriyani.

10th May Stanstead – Shannon

James Cobbett

Dropped off by RD, effortless journey through the airport; apparently a lull in activity.

11th May Souterrain CL008-001004, Teergonean, Doolin.

James Cobbett

Cloud 80%: Wind SW, F6: Visibility 20Nm: Ground damp. The Plan, to see if dowsing could respond to, or indicate the presence of a cavity, utilizing a known passage. Deployed copper brazing rods, 450mm long, ≈2mm diameter. Each crisscrossed the known north - south, linear souterrain passage. Results were encouraging; both experienced one or both rods react along the line of the passage below. Further work required.

23rd May Considine's (South End)

Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath, Mark (Gonzo) Lumley

Cloud 85%: Showers: Wind NW, F2/3: Visibility 30Nm: Ground wet: medium stream. The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing: ML supervising. PMcG resumed digging the south end, where the shaft meets the south rift. The west side of the shaft appears to be passing beneath the west side of the south rift. Much stiff, dry clay removed, along with plenty of boulders. The area at this point approaches -26m. At one-point issues arose with the winch; CC diagnosed a brake issue, minor adjust solved this, however it requires closer assessment; likely Friday. Thirty Kibbles raised, of which half were clays. Some were of a blue grey hue, seemingly similar to that of the large, dreadful grey clay deposits previously encountered. Generator half full: PC, fuel on site. Stats adjusted following CC's maintenance visit of the 29th April of two hours.

Hours 10 (3219), Southend (2169) Kibbles 30 (6462), Nets 0 (926), Total lifts 7396

24th May Sliabh Eilbhe Project

Mark Lumley

Cloud 90%: Wind NW, F2: Visibility 25Nm: Ground wet: The Plan: search for reported cave entrance. Parked at Poulnagollum, walked along the drovers track to the area of E2. Excavator activity in the area has exposed three small but impressive sinks, two of which were previously noted. Unfortunately, these appear located on land recently purchased by an individual whose attitude may be unfriendly to cavers. Crossed onto MF's land to begin search. MF had previously

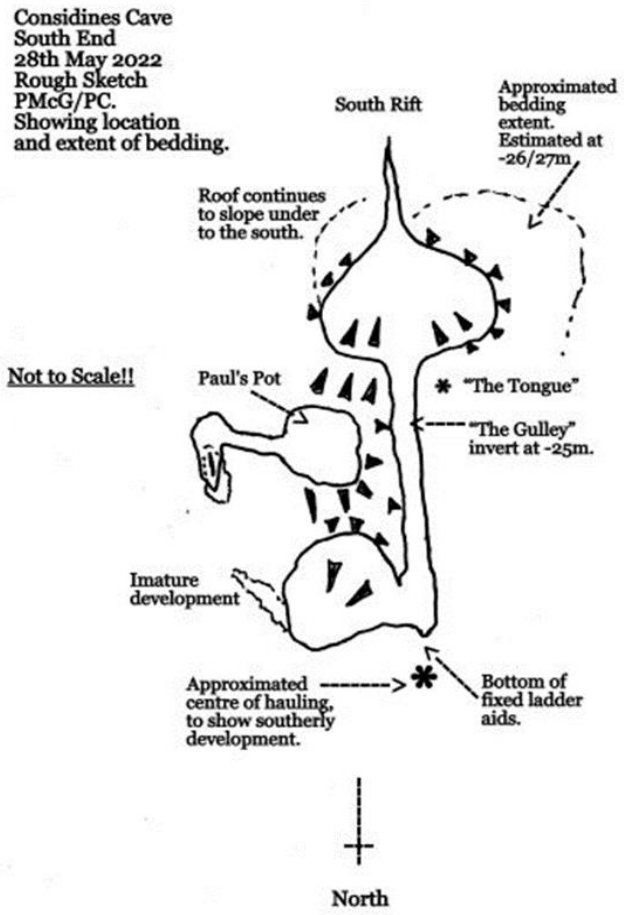
related how he would likely need guide PC to this unrecorded entrance. Adding he located a second cave entrance. The reported "hole" was not found in the location, given as "It's beyond the Crush". However, the field beyond an insubstantial, ruinous wall, possibly Bronze Age origin, was observed to extend southward, previously, within this area was noted an unrecorded, seemingly conically shaped depression, with associated partially obscuring foliage. Noted some years ago whilst searching for Caherbullog souterrain. During an exhaustive search, ML found three small solutional openings, none large enough to enter. After coffee, magic'd from ML's person, walked to over to Pollantobar: Happy Heather Hole remains open following the recent dog rescue. Returning to the Hilux, noted several other interesting locations, within the forestry, each well worth a look; so similar to previous entrances locations found adjacent Pollbinn. A cracking day.

25th May Souterrains CL008-130002, CL008-001005 and 001004 and one unregistered
Nick Geh
18:00. Cloud 70%: Wind WSW, F4: Visibility 20Nm: Showers: Ground; karst surface. The Plan: show NG one area of the souterrain study. Between the heavy showers managed to visit the Court tomb, (circa 4000BCE), and adjacent souterrains, (circa 400CE – 1200CE); the only potential connection between these two monuments; the later farmers who used the souterrains claimed ownership of the land, claiming the adjacent, prominent tomb was the repository of their ancestors. A land of lush pastures, well worth fighting for to run cattle upon, even today. The unregistered souterrain appears on Robinson's Burren Map, but not listed within the National archaeological monument database.

27th May Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester

Cloud 10%: Wind WNW, F2/3: Visibility 35Nm: Ground dry-ish: Stream, small. The Plan; maintenance. During an earlier callout in Liscannor, an opportunity arose to scrounge a 2.5m length of 1.2m diameter corrugated black plastic drain pipe; swiftly returned with trailer, wrestled it home. Considine's, 13:00, attended to the winch motor issue. Initial inspection focused on the operating mechanism actuated by the winchman's foot. It would appear that during its five years of operating the winch may have moved, slightly. The very end of the lever found, just impinging the timber pallet wall of the winch shed. Secondly, the maillon link on the foot lever required replacement, and adjacent return spring, relocating, to re-introduce its ability to lift the foot lever to a position where the motor stops. The clutch appears fine, as does the braking adjustment. Operated, the linkage, which makes up the operating system works well. Generator a little under half full: Fuel on site.

Hours 3 (3222), Southend (2172) Kibbles 00 (6462), Nets 0 (926), Total lifts 7396



28th May Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

Cloud 10%: Wind WNW, F2: Visibility 35Nm: Ground drying: Stream, small. The Plan, Dig. 17:30. PC arrived early to set up shop and prepare the 2:1 system to lift the large, obstructing boulder from the south rift. CC winching: PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. Raising the, (non-limestone), boulder took some five minutes to surface; weighing in at least seventy-five kilos: well rounded, obviously well stream washed. PMcG further exposed the east side, which continues to slope broadly southwards at around 45˚, mirroring the undercutting roof. Rocks raised show a return to the once common, flat-ish form; handy for the walling. Further lowering of the floor, against the west wall, by some 0.6m, exposed the sharp undercut of a bedding, rock removed exposed this to be an open area, appearing to extend south-westerly, two, to three metres, with possible development to the northwest. All delighted with the progress. Of the thirty kibbles raised, half contained a sticky clay matrix, with small cobbles. The others were boulders of various sizes, along with two nets. A cracking session. Thoughts considered digging this area as it deepens, as the narrow area created by the "The Gulley" will impede direct hauling, even with the travel line. Potentially, a staging may be required, in concert with an offset hauling system, similar to that used digging "Paul's Pot", to temporarily stack kibbles, prior to sending direct to surface; a system taking up two sessions to raise the normal thirty kibbles. Generator about ¼ full: fuel on site. To McDermott's for drink, talk of caverns measureless to man, and watch the sun set.

Hours 10 (3232), Southend (2182), Kibbles 30 (6492), Nets 0 (928), Total lifts 7428

31st May – 8th June Alghero, Sardinia
Pauline M Cronin
Goddaughter's Rachel Pattison's wedding to John Callan at Villa Moska, Alghero.
Weather, stunning. Cracking time with PMC.

9th – 11th June Caherconnell archaeological school.
Dr's. Michelle Comber, Noel McCarthy.
Cloud 40%: Wind W, F6, gusting 7. Showers.
Employed as Site supervisor. Opened the mound adjacent the Cashel, almost thirty metres east. Thin humic cover, much limestone beneath, lain upon an elevated area of bedrock.

13th – 17th June Caherconnell archaeological school.
Dr's. Michelle Comber, Noel McCarthy.

13th June Considine's, (South End).
Cheg Chester
18:00. Cloud 100%: Wind W, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Ground drying: tiny stream. The Plan: assess bedding exposed by PMcG. CC lifelining. Descended swiftly to -25m. The hole opened by PMcG is close to where the south rift narrows off the main shaft. The opening is not so much a bedding, rather the apex of a rift. Two metres, beyond the breakthrough, each wall of the 0.3m high by 0.9m wide bedding, gently arcs together to form a 0.15m wide open rift; this is the apex of the passage. Below this 0.15m rift the width clearly increases. This significant development, heads west, estimated at -26.5m; the right sort of direction; long desired. A view down the south rift also suggests a slowly increasing width. Recent, disappointing, immature developments show no signs of similarity with that of this development. Formed at right angles off the shaft, in the west wall. At the base of "The Tongue", (with its near vertical south side). Adjacent the south rift and close to the 45˚ slope of the external wall surrounding "Paul's Pot", all appear conspire to the potential of a cross rift, promising further shaft depth. It strongly appears the main shaft will continue downward. Assessing the area, utilization of the Travel Line will remain practicable, though a proportion of the fill in "The Gulley", will require removal to create a slope, facilitating kibbles to pass along the arc, to land at the digger's location. Ascending, took

advantage of an aerial view from the staging at -14.5m; the walls at, and above, the new opening was bone dry, whilst all other walls were quite wet. Generator, all but empty: fuel on site. Travel line belays need be relocated in holes already drilled. One of the three bulbs of the lower digging light remains functional.

Hours 1 (3233), Southend (2183), Kibbles 0 (6492), Nets 0 (928), Total lifts 7428

14th June Lost Nigel Taylor

16th June Souterrain CL009-022007, Lisnanroum
Joe Normandy
17:30. Cloudless: Wind SW, F2: Ground dry. Visibility 20Nm. The Plan: assess 3D imagining software, ran from a mobile. JN demonstrated the detail captured by "Poly Cam" when recording the exposed dig site, adjacent Caherconnell Cashel. Intrigued by its ability to record gaps beneath large boulders, requested a demonstration, recording a souterrain. By some ambient light from the small, southern opening, and illumination from a mobile phone, the test was conducted. To obtain the resultant imagery the recording requires uploading to the host website, Poly Cam, who process the data: the result is quite superb; the "Pro" version offers measuring facilities.

18th June Poulanian
Solo
10:30. Cloud 10%: Wind SW, F2: Visibility 25Nm: Ground dry. The Plan: install the travel lines for the counter balance system. Prepared two holes for the rawlbolts; travel lines secured at the top by karabiners. At the bottom adjustment made via reef knots; only with the lines taught do empty kibbles raise and lower with the minimum of swing. The base of the shaft remains a bomb site, requiring clearing. Awaiting containers, from John Browne, to create kibbles and water containers.

20th June (1975) Wedding anniversary

20th – 24th June Caherconnell archaeological school.
Dr's. Michelle Comber, Noel McCarthy.
Issues arising from "Nancy's" behaviour, resulted with her expulsion on Friday morning. Thursday evening, roommates Hanna and Thursday were safely domiciled at the Cronin house. Following their unannounced, clandestine relocation, adjacent room occupiers in their accommodation, locked their respective rooms as each felt, quote "Unsafe".

20th June Cobbett's parcel delivered; a superb leather knapsack.

27th June Considine's, (South End).
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
18:00. Cloud 100%, 700ft: Wind W, F2: Steady rain: Visibility 2Nm: Ground awash: medium stream. The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. PMcG began to lower the floor area at the junction of the South Rift and West Passage, exposing a rib formed on one side of "The Gulley", itself formed from the north/south fault. Thirty kibbles were swiftly raised, ten of boulders the remainder of clay and gravels. In preparation for following the south rift/west passage area down, PMcG cleared the southern part of "The Gulley", which will be an obstacle to raising and lowering kibbles. Have no clear idea what the floor is going to do next. Generator ½ full: no fuel on site. Swallow nest has appeared in the winch shed. Potential session next Friday, 18:00.

Hours 8 (3241), Southend (2191), Kibbles 30 (6522), Nets 0 (928), Total lifts 7458

Centenary of the Outbreak of the Irish Civil War

27th June - 1st July Caherconnell archaeological school.
Dr's. Michelle Comber, Noel McCarthy.
Exposed and cleared the gateway down to a stone rampart of later construction.
Found iron knife in south end of trench.

30th June Paul McGrath down with the Covid.
4th – 8th July Caherconnell archaeological school.
Dr's. Michelle Comber, Noel McCarthy.
Monday: opened trench extension three metres west.

7th July Clooncoose Cave
Dominica, Megan, Mary Anne, Sara.
Trip to show archaeological students the site; being a cave adapted into an early medieval refuge, with significant souterrain defensive feature.

11th – 15th July Caherconnell archaeological school.
Dr's. Michelle Comber, Noel McCarthy.
Iron pin end. Demonstrated recording finds to Dominique Johnson and Carson Riggs.

14th July Considine's, (South End).
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath, Des McNally (DM)
18:00. Cloud 20%: Wind W, F1: Visibility 30Nm: Ground dry: No stream. The Plan: Dig. CC winching: DM and PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. A further rock formation/development between the south rift and the west passage was exposed. A steady session, producing thirty kibbles; a little over a tonne. Water directed into the hole, at the present apex of the west passage, appears to fall away……Clays and mud removed, along with well-rounded cobbles. Generator ½ full: CC fuel; on site. Swallow nest found unoccupied. Completion of seasonal employment, with NUI Galway Caherconnell field school, means return to normal digging life as of Monday 13:00.

Hours 12 (3253), Southend (2203), Kibbles 30 (6552), Nets 0 (928), Total lifts 7488

16th July Choked Sink, Lisdoonvarna.
Cheg Chester, Emmett McNamara
13:00. Cloud 25%: Wind W, F1: Visibility >20Nm: Ground dry. PC was approached by EM to offer advice regarding occasional localized flooding, believed a more regular event since adjacent forestry was planted. Suggested obtain a surface profile prior to further action. Will likely commence survey, and establish datums, sometime next Thursday.

18th July Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 10%; dense haze. Temp 24˚C. Wind W, F1: Visibility 20Nm: Ground dry: No stream. The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. Hot conditions. The floor area, at the junction of the South Rift and west passage, continues to increase in size. The deposit covering the floor of the west passage was steadily removed, uncovering a both smooth, and rugged/jagged surface, developing as a steep, inclined bedding. The heavy clay exhibited a complex stratigraphy, multiple layers of differing, coloured silts; soft

browns through to dark gray. Thirty kibbles were produced, of which half were of large cobbles, the remainder heavy clays. It now takes two minutes and thirty-five seconds to winch a kibble from the dig at the South Rift to surface. Generator all but empty: fuel on site. Blew sediment through water supply from reservoir; supply reinstated. To McDermott's.

Hours 10 (3263), Southend (2213), Kibbles 30 (6582), Nets 0 (928), Total lifts 7518

21st July St. Breckan's GAA Pitch
Cheg Chester
18:00. Cloud 80%: Wind W, F1: Visibility >20Nm: Ground dryish: Midges. The Plan: produce profiles of the GAA pitch, from which to investigate occasional flooding. Necessary investigation of adjacent sinks, (poultaloons), offers potential meetings with numerous landowners to improve drainage at least four unrecorded sink locations.
Set up survey station, adjacent goal south end of pitch. Projected into forestry establishing a datum on tree, (stainless steel screw); this will be used to work westward: around a metre below this is extensive evidence of flood level. Established another datum on the goalpost, for projection out onto the road, then south to the bridge, and west to the larger of the adjacent sinks. Took levels of flood debris within the forestry. Initial assessment suggests when the level of the flood debris is extrapolated, a significant area of the southern half experiences water depth of a conservative 0.1m.

24th July St. Breckan's GAA Pitch
Solo
14:15. Cloud 100%, base 800ft: Wind SW, F4/5: Visibility >20Nm: Ground flooded. The Plan: install datum on the bedrock at the sink. Heavy rain, through the night, suggested a stream would definitely be present, in the previously dry river bed. Arriving, noticed a flooded area around the southern goal posts; at the bridge, and a larger stream than expected.

View southwest across GAA pitch, river and overflow channel in forestry margin.

Water level upstream the bridge, level fallen some 0.05m from Max: measurable.

View east; St. Brendon's Rising, (upper), normally dry.

View West from within forestry to overflow channel

Yellow datum, mid-image, installed to record extant water level.

Centre image, view west of choked main sink, beneath some two/three metres of water.
Flood channel swing away left, northward, behind the forestry.

Walking the pitch, the area west, and beyond the road drains, showed significant water logging, draining to the south end, across the pitch to the overflow channel. Fears of significant road runoff manifest. Between showers, managed to take photos. The volume of flow is huge, the surface flow rate estimated at one half to a metre/second. This flow was unabated in the overflow channel. Searching for signs of active sinks, at two purported sites downstream, swiftly abandoned task when the family jewels became submerged. Stopped by concerned, elderly passerby; why so wet? Replied, it's a long story. Could not reach the actual rising due to electric fencing and grumpy cattle with young, settled around the pool. Searched for a Bench Mark, shown on 25-inch map, as being on the south side of the bridge, above that side of the arch. Nothing found, briars need cutting away. Believe the rising, if opened, would access a pot up which the greater volume of flood water travels.

24th July Spoke at length with KJ of his health issues; concerned but as ever, positive.

25th July Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 70%: Wind NW, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp: medium stream. The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. A film of dark brown, almost black sediment covered a significant area; the result of recent flooding, following the heavy rainfall Saturday night: conservatively assessed at 3 inches, yet believed closer to 3.25 inches. PMcG used PC's camera to record features. Progress was tougher than previous; digging the

heavy brown clay and return of the awful grey clay. Thirty kibbles were achieved, ten being cobbles and boulders, the reminder the clays. Issues arising as the hauling rope is passing over a dirty area, this is affecting the jammer's ability to lock on the rope, when hauling is stopped. A review of the hauling route is needed to remove this problem. Along with improving the diggers ease to loading kibbles onto the hauling line; potentially arranged for Friday afternoon, 13:00. PMcG fuel. Generator a little over ½ full: No fuel on site. Found water flow to main cistern also poor, blew through sediment; sorted. PMcG to sort replacement underground light. To McDermott's.

Hours 9 (3272), Southend (2222), Kibbles 30 (6612), Nets 0 (928), Total lifts 7548

Photo Paul McGrath
View down into the blind pot, and across into The Gulley, beyond being the South Rift.

Photo Paul McGrath
View into South Rift, showing dark deposit following flooding.

Photo Paul McGrath

View down removable rebar steps from -22.5m to -27m

Entry to West Bedding Passage Photo Paul McGrath

26th July Cracking health update from KJ; delighted with results.

26th July St. Breckan's GAA Pitch
Solo
11:10. Cloud 70%: Wind W, F2: Visibility >20Nm: Ground damp. The Plan: check on water levels after Sunday flood conditions. Forty-five hours since previous observations; stream gulley "Dry", no flow at all. Limited time meant cursory visit. Theory; believe a significant conduit exists draining toward the accepted rising of St Brendan's, located in the Aille River valley. The resurging flow rate witnessed Sunday is likely to be "Backed up" flow issuing up a Pot/Shaft/Rift. The absence of obvious flow sinking at the large sink suggests it to backs up, or held up, forcing water to flow into the overflow channel and on to the two reported sinks. Initial conversations indicate an eagerness to address this problem, no issues were voiced against opening the large sink and, quite possibly, the rising. Delighted.

Photo Pat C.
View west to previous flooded area of pitch.

View East toward Rising

View of dry river channel in front of forestry.

31st July St Breckan's GAA Pitch
Solo
Cloud 40%: Wind W, F1: Visibility >30Nm: Ground damp. The Plan: install survey datum at sink. Had a spare hour, sped over, arriving 12:45. Found a large stream backed up, but disappearing down the sink; surface flow rate significant. The extant stream level, almost equal to the crown of the natural embankment margin, separating the main sink from the overflow channel. Gingerly crossed the overflow channel to the far side, finding the heavily foliated ground cover obscuring, steepening sides of an obvious flood channel sink. Was ill prepared for scrambling about, will return.

View West, potential overflow to another sink. Photo Pat C.


View West, showing north side of sinking pool. Photo Pat C.

Photo Pat C.

View north of overflow channel.

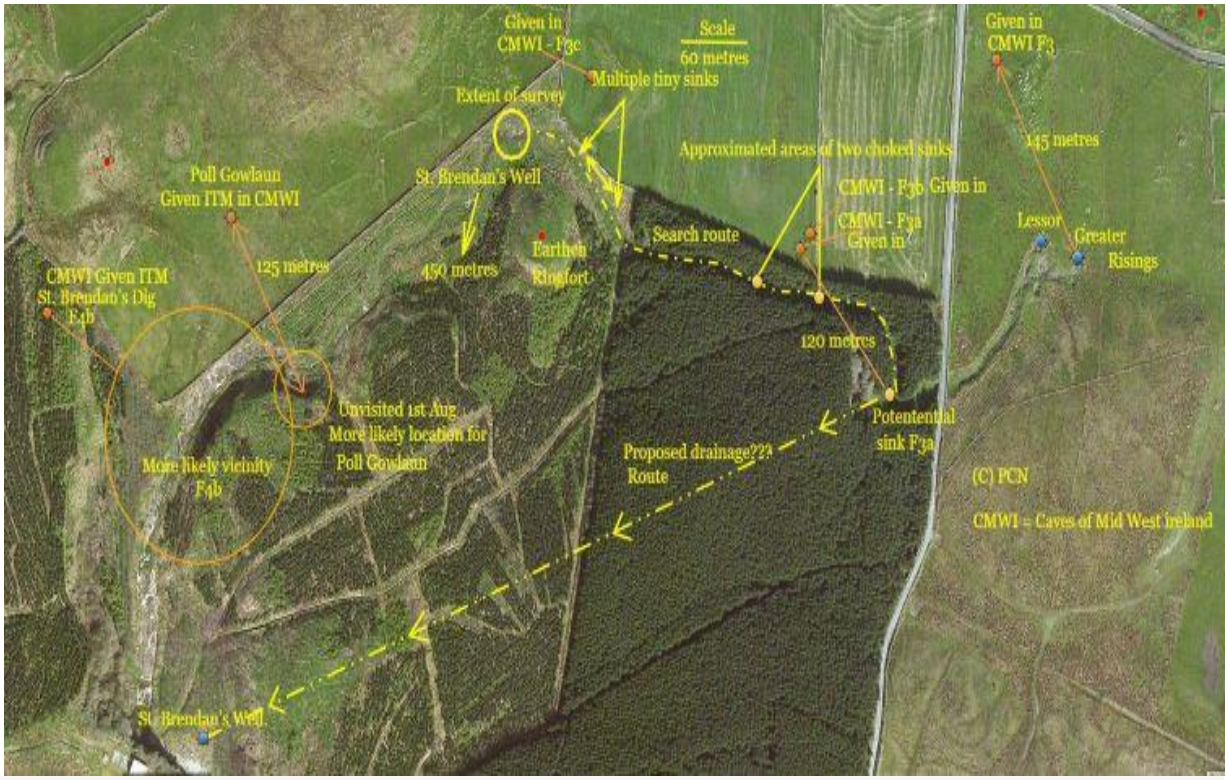
Photo Pat C.

Poor image, (low battery), of, View West of sink.

1st August Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 100%, base 400ft: Yellow Rain warning; (12:00 today until 12:00 tomorrow): Heavy showers: Wind SSW, F3/4: Visibility 5Nm: Ground sodden: Very large stream. The Plan: review status of dig area. PMcG and PC descended with Hilti drill, etc. Inspected the "West Passage"; excavated almost the entire remaining fill, unfortunately exposing an immature rift at the end of a three-metre-long sloping passage, which continues below. Spent time reviewing best travel line arrangement for digger to operate, with least amount of effort in the small area. Installed new bolt belays for travel line. The east side of the South Rift appears to be assuming the vertical, the west side of the South Rift, just beyond the West passage, is assuming a more sloping development. It appears that depth will continue to increase, and, development will form beneath the west side of the South Rift. The fault along which the shaft is formed continues has resumed its development southward, extending beyond its recent limit by six metres. Noise from the streams entering the pipework, and falling down the North Shaft was thunderous. Ground water significant and increasing, cascading down the main shaft, drenching all. Ten filled kibbles await hauling. Recovered signal box, which CC took away to dry, renovate and repair. Generator not run; fuel tank a little over ½ full: No fuel on site. Lighting at -26m needs replacement. Departed for the St. Breckan's Project.

Hours 6 (3278), Southend (2228), Kibbles 0 (6612), Nets 0 (928), Total lifts 7548

1st August St. Brecken's Project
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
15:00. Arrived to check the potential sink noted (31st July 2022), adjacent the flood channel; suspected today's heavy showers, since 10:30, likely to impact accessing the sink.



Work undertaken 1st August Image Archaeology.IE

Surprised to find no stream at all. The deep channel, previously noted, takes some water, but is some three metres above the main sink; will kept a note of it. Took the opportunity to install the survey datum on the bedrock of the sink; west side. The overflow channel was followed some four hundred metres north, turning west, to where the shallow, surface drainage channel encountered an increasing number of areas of exposed bedrock. Along its length, passing north side of the ringfort, are multiple small, potential sinks; none accessible. On occasion the channel, and supplemental gulleys in the rich dark soil, are difficult to negotiate, here too, are multiple, tiny sinks.
Back at the Bridge, 16:15, PC noted the upstream channel now had a small stream. Watching, within six minutes, the three-metre-wide stream rose some four inches. PC scampered down to the main sink along a less than ankle deep stream. Noting where the increasing stream sank; water entered the slot beneath the bedrock twelve minutes after first observations taken. Exiting, the stream was greater than welly depth and swiftly increasing.
NB. One inch of rainfall was recorded at Kilshanny between 10:30 and 16:30. Observations of the stream began 16:15. The stream entered the sink at 16:27. Quite an experience to watch such an increase of flow emerging from an oft dry rising. Changed in torrential rain: to McDermott's.

4th August 03:55. Lost Peggy Evans.

5th August Poulanian
John Browne
Cloud 30%: Wind W, F2: Visibility 20Nm: Ground wet: The Plan; complete counterbalance system. Replaced initially fitted 25mm pulleys with 50mm, the effort used when hauling is significantly lessened, though originally acceptable. Descended the shaft to tighten both travel lines, secured to two rawlbolts. Picked up eight containers to make four more water tanks, and four more kibbles.

6th August Hiroshima

8th August Considine's (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 5%: Wind SW, F2: Visibility >30Nm: Ground wet: medium stream. The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG digging: PC unloading and barrowing. Requested PMcG stop at the -14.5m staging, to assess passage of kibbles along a taughtened travel line, close to the RSJ, at -12m: adequate clearance confirmed. To -26.5m where a solid floor was exposed, approaching the South Rift, either wall of the rift is now showing vertical development, some form of shaft may develop within the original fault. Thirty kibbles and one net were raised. Spoil, a light brown coloured matrix, with cobbles and boulders. A maintenance session is required to sort minor issues. Generator a little over ½ full: No fuel on site.
Hours 9 (3287), Southend (2237), Kibbles 30 (6642), Nets 1 (929), Total lifts 7579

8th August St Brecken's Project
Solo
16:45. Departed the dig, deciding to head over to the sink, establishing an accurate ITM map ref, (Irish Transverse Mercator) at the survey datum. Tested the GPSR against the recorded location of a Bench Mark. Later, on returning to the Hilux, took another test the north end of the east side of the bridge and a final one at the gates to the GAA Pitch. Went in search of rumoured sinks between Bridge and rising. Delighted at the exposed, rocky nature of the dry stream bed; surprized at the size and broken area the dry risings occupy. The landowner is a frail, elderly farmer, who has leased the fields to another, fortunately a pal of Emmett. Extensive areas of course sand/gravels noted. Rising C appears to have a small passage behind two massive

boulders. The area is secured by electric fence, around the field, along the dry river channel, from the bridge.

Rising A 515244 x 698795: Rising B 515257 x 698794: Rising C 515286 x 698802
Rising D 515282 x 698791: Rising E 515282 x 698785: Rising F 515252 x 698785
TEST 2 515168 x 698785: Bench M 515173 x 698714: F3a 515115 x 698700
Taken with a Garmin GPSMAP 64s.

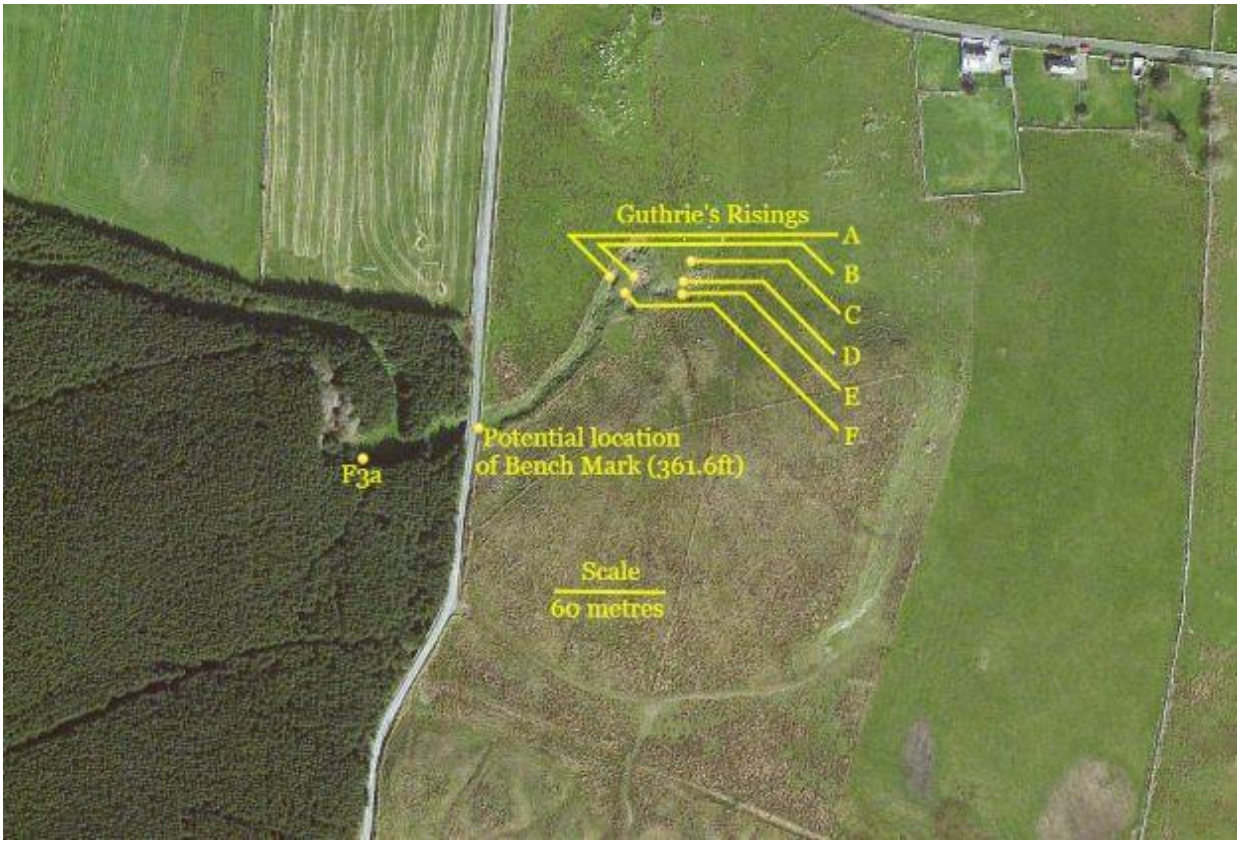


Image archaeology.IE

Guthrie's Risings; a sequence of huge turmoil, much sand and fine limestone gravel exposed.

9th August Nagasaki

12th August St. Breckan's Project
Cheg Chester
13:00. Cloudless, haze: Temp 33˚C: Ground drying: Visibility 20Nm: The Plan: Investigate the Dry River bed. Crossed the fields west of the GAA Pitch, joining the dry river bed, where left off 1st August: (ITM 514810 x 698881). Thick ground cover made walking difficult; walking poles required. Within fifty metres encountered a further section of bedrock, with broken area of exposed boulders. Dense ground cover continues for a further one hundred and twenty odd metres, where another section of bedrock and boulders occurred. Between these exposures narrow, deep gulleys in the rich, dark soil make walking hazardous, virtually invisible until the leg disappears. After two hundred and fifty metres the river bed turns westerly; in the left, (east), bank a narrow gulley, (choked), appears to be the possible site of Poulgowlaun, reportedly choked. Below this point bedrock exposure increases. For the next three hundred

metres bedrock descends in a sequence to Aillenagroagh; a twenty odd metre high overhanging shale cliff. Minor seepages appear; water presence increases, the foliage overhangs the increasing river flow: opinion believes an adjacent overgrown channel would lead to St. Brendan's Well. Stream flow large, near ITM 514530 x 698440. Wading calf deep, now necessary, regularly, in cold water. Remaining distance to St. Brendan's Bridge, some hundred sixty metres. Flow rate significant. Walked the kilometre back to the trucks. Curious area: needs further research. Poulgowlaun location taken as, potentially, ITM 514618 698730

View North: Cheg some seventy metres south of the Ringfort

View South-ish: Cheg at beginning of bedrock exposures

View east: toward potential location of Poulgowlaun

View South: Cheg at tapering bedrock layers, thin end of limestone bed facing upstream.

View Northwest: Cheg below Aillenagroagh.

14th August (1952) Lost Marcel Loubens

15th August Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester
13:00. Cloud 100%: Wind NW, F3: Visibility 20Nm: Ground wet: medium stream. The Plan: Maintenance. Sciatica an issue; did not descend to replace lamp illuminating work area. Lifted two platform pallets and manoeuvred the two metres, by one metre, 200mm square, reinforcing mesh beneath; secured the two pieces to the scaffold grill, awaiting fabric cover. CC trimmed the

foliage back, replaced the weather cover on the generator and replaced the underground signal box workings. Left CC to complete task, limped back to the truck.

Hours 4 (3291), Southend (2241), Kibbles 0 (6642), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7579

17th August St. Breckan's Project /Guthrie's Risings
EM, (Emmet McNamara), PC
17:30. Cloud 100%: Wind WSW, F3: Visibility 25Nm: Ground Dry-ish: Midges: Light rain shower. The Plan: conduct an aerial view of Guthrie's Risings. Met at the GAA pitch. Waited twenty minutes, for the shower to pass; EM prepared his drone and flew it from the Bridge to the Risings. Cloud and the light rain darkened the light-coloured boulders within the risings, seemingly reducing contrast between risings and foliage, displayed on the screen. Viewed northeast and north to look for ancient flood channels coming from Sliabh Eilbh. Next, a flight to the sink then along part of the flood channel. Awaiting the imagery to arrive.

Image archaeology.ie

Image showing contradicting/erroneous locations of sites of UBSS and O/S maps.

19th August Poulnagun
Emmet McNamara
Visited EM regarding drone imagery taken of the dry river bed and risings; alas issues incurred. So, EM revisited Guthrie's Risings yesterday, (18th), and repeated the flight plans. A brief view of the footage appears of better contrast. EM will provide a memory stick; as the files are huge.
Theory.
Reflecting on the area, (≈2500 m²), from which the risings erupt, believe the volume issuing denotes the area is an extensive collapse, obstructing significant subterranean flow. In low flow rate conditions, amalgamated volume, of among other sites, Cullauns I, II, III and Killeany Risings emerge from St. Brendan's Well. Once flow exceeds the capacity to pass through the collapse, it surfaces, to flow along the normally dry river bed to the sink, (F3a). (See Pollaloughabo, Gort Lowlands). At the sink, once the surface flow exceeds the capacity of the sink, (F3a), it backs up. At this point, dependent on volume of flow, the depression fills.

Witnessed as two metres deep, seeming the peak flow rate for the sink to swallow. Also witnessed, after heavy rainfall, the river overwhelming the sink, (F3a), (to at least three metres), to spill over the invert of the flood channel, at a depth of about one and a half metres, to flow down the meandering, one-kilometre channel to St. Brendan's Bridge. Evidence of regular flooding is present throughout the river channel to St. Brendan's Bridge. In conversation with Mary Collins, she regularly observes flood conditions beneath St. Brendan's Bridge. Intend install system to measure mean flow rates at differing depths near the bridge.
Revisited EM, requesting permission be obtained from the presently unknown owner of the sink, to begin digging at the sink to assess the circumstances of the choke deposits before winter rains are upon us.

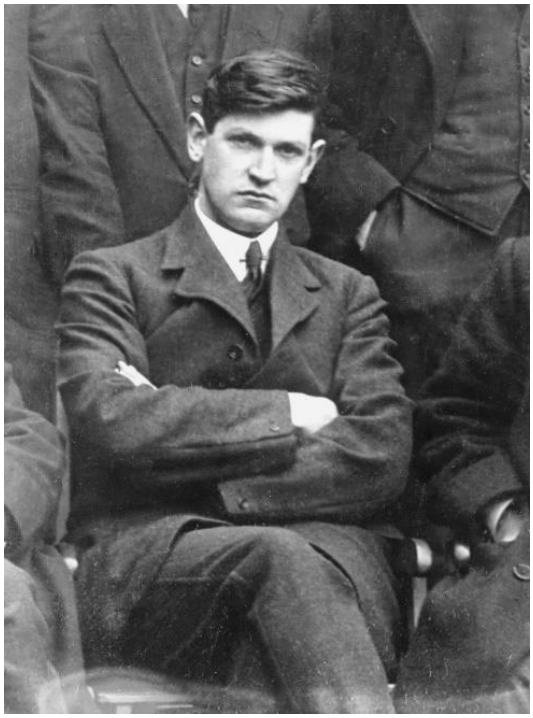
20th August Pouldubh
Solo
11:20. Cloud 90%: Wind SW, F5 gusting F6: Visibility 20Nm: Ground wet. The Plan: some exercise. More than a little surprized at the number of tourist cars careering along the boreen. Little evidence of visitors to the cave, no track through the tall ground cover. In South entrance, some foam present. In the meandering sections, noted areas where the silt/sand/gravel banks have eroded, exposing the wide, low bedding. Cascade present, a good flow running down the wall, rather than spouting. Twenty metres back from the old terminal choke foam appeared on the roof. From here the floor has become levelled by deposition of course and fine flood debris, cobbles etc; the shallow water channel no longer present. Beyond, toward the breakthrough point into the Figg-Brigg Series, is a flat-out crawl. Perhaps the old choke is reforming? Turned off main light to test one of the spare lights and batteries whilst exiting. Headed for St. Breckan's Project, to see if any surface flow was present. If so, the precise locations of two rumoured sinks, upstream the bridge, may become apparent amongst the turmoil of the river bed.

21st August Souterrain CL008-001004
Geneva and Karen Pattison
Took both for an archaeological wander around the Court Tomb and souterrain.

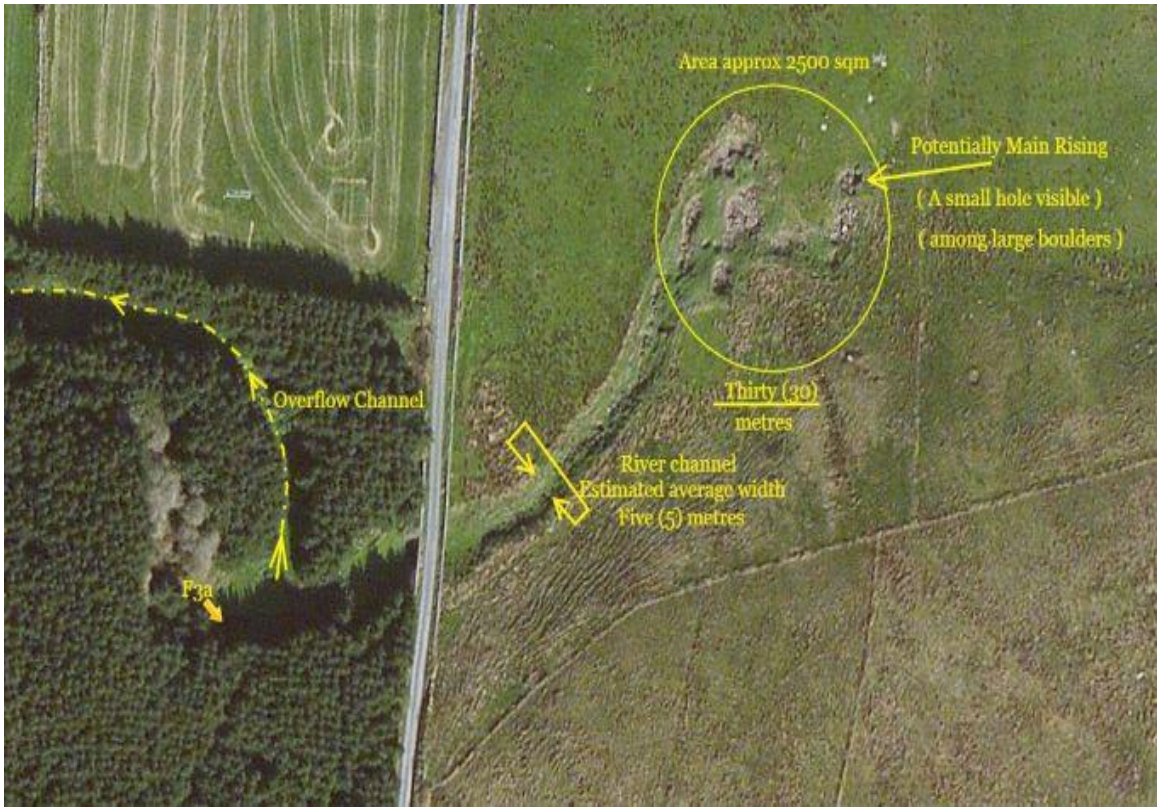
22nd August Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 100%, base 500ft: Wind SW, F3/4: Visibility <5Nm: Ground damp: medium stream. The Plan: Dig. PMcG digging: CC winching: PC unloading and barrowing. The dig has progressed into the confines of the South Rift, some 0.75m wide, tapering some five metres to the south, to nothing. A bedding in the East Wall has developed a vertical face, the West Wall, (side), undercutting slowly toward the southwest. The area still descending, appearing to form a shaft, of sorts; the reduced floor area means depth is swiftly achieved, inflicting associated issues on the digger sending kibbles to surface. The constricted nature of the site places increased workload on the digger, a second person here would help enormously; circumstances begin to suggest the Team may require a minimum of four to dig, or adjust normal practice and dig in two stages. Twenty-six kibbles were raised, a cracking effort by a well bolloxed PMcG. Among the clays the grey form appeared once again, although a brief appearance. Large boulders, (25kg), still appearing. Generator a little over ¼ full: fuel PC, in site. Maintenance tasks arise, as does a survey trip.

Hours 9 (3300), Southend (2250), Kibbles 26 (6668), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7605

22nd August (1922) Lost Michael Collins, (Béal na Blá)



1890-1922

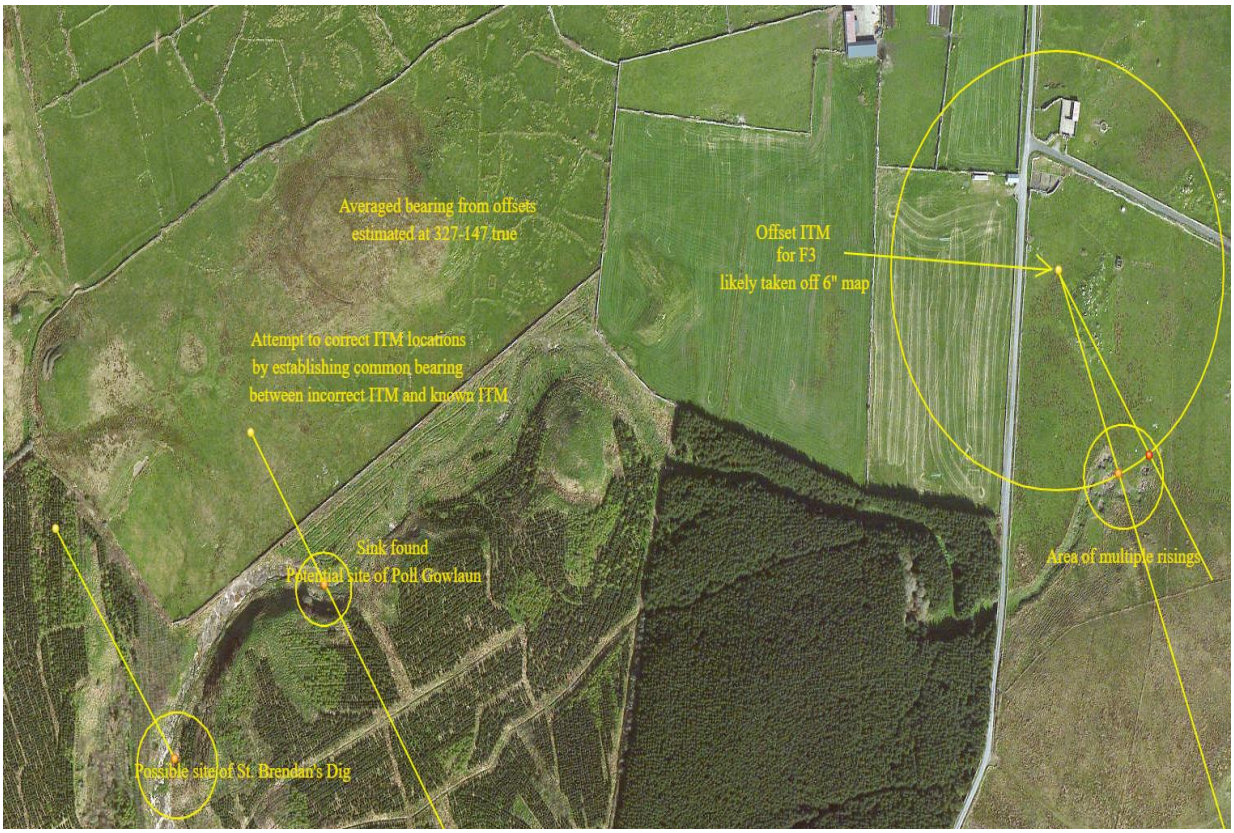


Imagery Archaeology.ie

Image showing extent of risings and width of dry river channel

23rd August St. Breckan's Project

Examined incorrect cave/site ITM locations, (UBSS publication), around Ballyconnoe, GAA pitch, Lisdoonvarna. Averaged bearings, making allowances for the large area of Guthrie's Risings, and the potential fact ITMs in the publication were taken off six-inch maps, a common enough act, though not in this case; the rising true location has been correctly recorded by OS. Established an averaged bearing of 147˚/327˚, (True), between error ITM and known, established locations of two of the three sites; St. Brendan's Dig, Poll Gowlaun and Upper St. Brendan's Well. Extrapolated the 147˚ bearing into the dry river valley, estimating St. Brendan's Dig to be within the area of ITM 514500 x 698620, on the east side of the channel. Will search location when looking for St. Brendan's Well.



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Extrapolation of bearings from incorrect ITM, based on assessed locations.

25th August

20:40. Asked by Thomas O'Conner, landowner, for data on Poll na Gceim, responded with WhatsApp sending 3 x photos from CofMWI; 21:10. Perhaps, he's selling the land.

26th August St. Breckan's Project

Cheg Chester

18:00. Cloud 80%: Wind WNW, F3: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp. The Plan: complete levelling between GAA pitch and F3a sink, via Bench Mark on bridge. Arrived early to choose spot and set up level, realizing that CC would be unable to park whilst level was set up. Searched for Bench Mark, shown on the southeast end of the bridge: 25" OS map. Found a small, protruding stone in the place indicated by the OS map; decided to use it as a datum, being

suitably positioned, checked its level with the road which was just a little below the tarmac surface; to be expected since the survey of the 1830s, or so. Took back-sight to goal post datum and foresight to Bench Mark. Setting up level position two CC arrived. Fun and games taking the foresight at the sink datum, CC needing resort to using a piece of tube to lengthen the staff. Just finished when accosted by Mort McInerney, wondering what was going on these many weeks. Long chat; invited to his place for further local information. Left just as midges were getting hungry.
Bench Mark: 110.21m, (361.6ft). Sink datum, (F3a): 105.84m, (347.26ft).

Achaeology.ie

Elevations OD of project.

28th August Poulanionain
John Browne
11:00. Cloud 80%: Wind E, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp. The Plan: deliver kibbles to JB and look at the old dig beyond the Main chamber; the work of Jim Shannon, Conor McGrath and Ray Murphy; to name but three. Mike Simms recently observed scalloping in the area suggests significant water flow issuing from the south. In the shallow, pool of water, created (?) since removal of clay for pottery production, a submerged space is visible, below the end wall. Using a six-metre length of pipe, a distance of three metres was probed, the end half a metre, felt as soft silt. The space width approximately a metre and a half. Dig area width some two metres, some eight metres long and 0.7m to 1.5m high. Stratigraphic evidence suggests significant, powerful flow periods, and significant deposition periods. Agreed to assist JB investigate the potential: 18:30 next Thursday.

28th August Pollcragreagh
Solo

18:00. Cloud 80%: Wind E, F2/3: Visibility >25Nm: Ground dry-ish: The Plan: exercise.
Arrived to find the field all but choked in briars. Found undergrowth too dense to press through. Machete or bush cutter required to access the entrance shaft.

29th August Considines (South End)
Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 60%: Wind SW, F3/4: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp: small stream. The Plan: Dig. PMcG digging: PC winching, unloading and barrowing. CC's availability today uncertain. Lowered the spare timber ladder and eight-foot x six-inch piece of plywood, to sit in the line of the ladder, to act as a shoot, along which the kibble might proceed; appears to work, up to a point. PMcG lowered the confined area further, until knackered; ideally, the area requires two to progress. From these constricted conditions sixteen kibbles were raised; quite the feat. Two stage digging is the apparent answer. Generator almost empty: fuel on site.
Hours 6 (3306), Southend (2256), Kibbles 16 (6684), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7621

31st August ([20:05] 2000) Lost the Father

31st August ([04:00] 2008) Lost Jarratt

1st September Met with Kevin Brady OSI, have access to OSI premium for research.
0871318253. kevin.brady@osi.ie

1st September Poulanionain
John Browne, Helen Browne, Cheg Chester
18:30. Cloud 75%: Wind NW, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Ground dry. The Plan: assist JB with what lay beyond the pool. Prior to trip spoke with PMcG of his experience digging this area. He related that some two or three small chambers were reached, via low (wet?) crawls. Perhaps, some fifty feet in total length: (it was quite a while ago). Installed small pump; over an hour watched the water level fall slowly, with accompanying gurgles, as small air pockets opened. From in the pool a different viewpoint of sediment stratigraphy is presented. An even lain, fine grey clay, at least fourteen inches in depth is beneath the brown clay, itself some two feet deep below the trench to the pool. Helen Browne joined the group as the ceiling of the flooded passage was revealed: stopped pump and backed in to chest. Passage at least five feet wide, and a foot high; the toecap of the welly feeling the soft silt floor, no sense of a firm floor. CC took photos.

3rd September Sink F3a, (St. Breckan's Project)
Solo
15:00. Cloud 100%, base 500ft: Wind SW, F3: Heavy showers: Visibility 5Nm: Ground damp. No water flowing. The Plan: measure bridge to calculate river flow. Measurements taken with laser. Bridge tunnel length, seven (7m), metres. Width five (5m), metres. Averaged height to where arch begins, from averaged river bed surface (1.87m), one point eight seven metres. Averaged height above wall, at western end of bridge arch (1.2m), one point two metres. Averaged height of wall (≈0.7), zero-point seven metre. River bed surface to apex of arch (3.06m), three point zero six of a metre. Bridge length 7m, width 5m, height of where arch begins 1.87m; on site estimates of observed flow may be drawn from these measurements. Checked tunnel, diagonally, equal at (8.5m), eight point five metres. Intend to secure a depth gauge asap. 16:00. Heavy showers arrived: inspected the approach to the sink. The boulder strewn area begins some eight metres before the sink, channel width averaging some two metres. A small opening was found on the south, left side, among bedrock, obscured by boulders. Initial digging, clearing boulders, would be visible by observant road users. However,

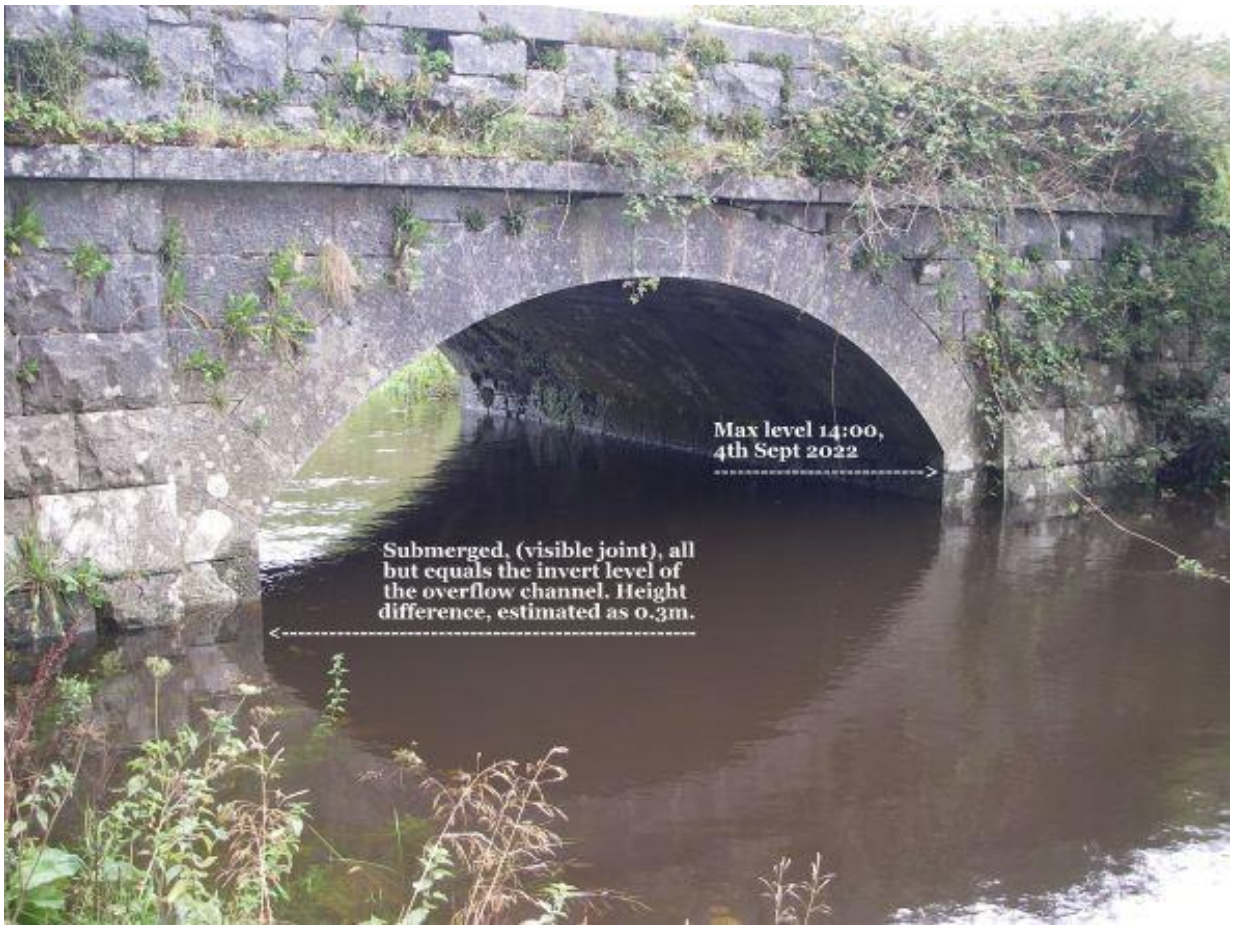
once a boulder, or spoil pile, wall height is achieved of around a half metre, most operations would be obscured.
Scrutinized the area of the overflow channel invert; a reduction of accumulated soil/humus appears possible, to a depth of at least a metre. Within some twenty metres this depth would look to match that area, which is riven with smaller, narrow channels, some barely 0.3m wide. Need construct a profile from sink datum to overflow invert and down existing overflow channel, as far as is practicable.

4th September St. Breckan's Project
Solo
Cloud 85%: Wind SW, F5/6: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp. The Plan: install measuring gauge. Found the river all but level with the arch of the bridge; abandoned plan. Noted water level had already dropped some eight inches, following today's, earlier, apparent peak flow. Which reached the joint of the top quoin and the first dress stone of the arch. Visited the overflow channel, finding water depth an average of 0.2m. The previously noted sink/gulley, six metres west of the overflow channel, was taking a substantial, metre deep stream, which sank into two holes. Believe this sink to be F3b, though F3b's recorded map ref does place it a hundred and twenty metres to the NW, in the GAA pitch. Took some photos and chanced making a movie. Murt McInerney appeared, whilst chatting saw water level noticeably falling, scampered back to the overflow channel, to find the river had ceased flowing over the invert into the overflow channel; the identified part of the bridge stonework will offer useful river flow reference for this fact. Over the ninety minutes, water level dropped about, maybe…0.15m (six inches).

3rd September Sink F3a, (St. Breckan's Project)
Solo
15:00. Cloud 100%, base 500ft: Wind SW, F3: Heavy showers: Visibility 5Nm: Ground damp. No water flowing. The Plan: measure bridge to calculate river flow. Measurements taken with laser. Bridge tunnel length, seven (7m), metres. Width five (5m), metres. Averaged height to where arch begins, from averaged river bed surface (1.87m), one point eight seven metres. Averaged height above wall, at western end of bridge arch (1.2m), one point two metres. Averaged height of wall (≈0.7), zero-point seven metre. River bed surface to apex of arch (3.06m), three point zero six of a metre. Bridge length 7m, width 5m, height of where arch begins 1.87m; on site estimates of observed flow may be drawn from these measurements. Checked tunnel, diagonally, equal at (8.5m), eight point five metres. Intend to secure a depth gauge asap. 16:00. Heavy showers arrived: inspected the approach to the sink. The boulder strewn area begins some eight metres before the sink, channel width averaging some two metres. A small opening was found on the south, left side, among bedrock, obscured by boulders. Initial digging, clearing boulders, would be visible by observant road users. However, once a boulder, or spoil pile, wall height is achieved of around a half metre, most operations would be obscured.
Scrutinized the area of the overflow channel invert; a reduction of accumulated soil/humus appears possible, to a depth of at least a metre. Within some twenty metres this depth would look to match that area, which is riven with smaller, narrow channels, some barely 0.3m wide. Need construct a profile from sink datum to overflow invert and down existing overflow channel, as far as is practicable.

4th September St. Breckan's Project
Solo
Cloud 85%: Wind SW, F5/6: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp. The Plan: install measuring gauge. Found the river all but level with the arch of the bridge; abandoned plan. Noted water level had already dropped some eight inches, following today's, earlier, apparent peak flow. Which

reached the joint of the top quoin and the first dress stone of the arch. Visited the overflow channel, finding water depth an average of 0.2m. The previously noted sink/gulley, six metres west of the overflow channel, was taking a substantial, metre deep stream, which sank into two holes. Believe this sink to be F3b, though F3b's recorded map ref does place it a hundred and twenty metres to the NW, in the GAA pitch. Took some photos and chanced making a movie. Murt McInerney appeared, whilst chatting saw water level noticeably falling, scampered back to the overflow channel, to find the river had ceased flowing over the invert into the overflow channel; the identified part of the bridge stonework will offer useful river flow reference for this fact. Over the ninety minutes, water level dropped about, maybe...0.15m (six inches).



View southeast, of water levels in relation to invert of overflow channel adjacent F3a.

Detail of joint, all but equal to the invert of the overflow channel: taken, approx. 15:45.

View east, upstream of bridge, river level.

View west to F3a, sink, body of water to right, by tree indicates overflow channel.

View sou-southwest to F3a sink, overflow channel crossing right foreground. Water depth 2.5m?

Overflow channel; sink F3a in background, left.

Potential sink F3b in centre of image, overflow channel crossing foreground.

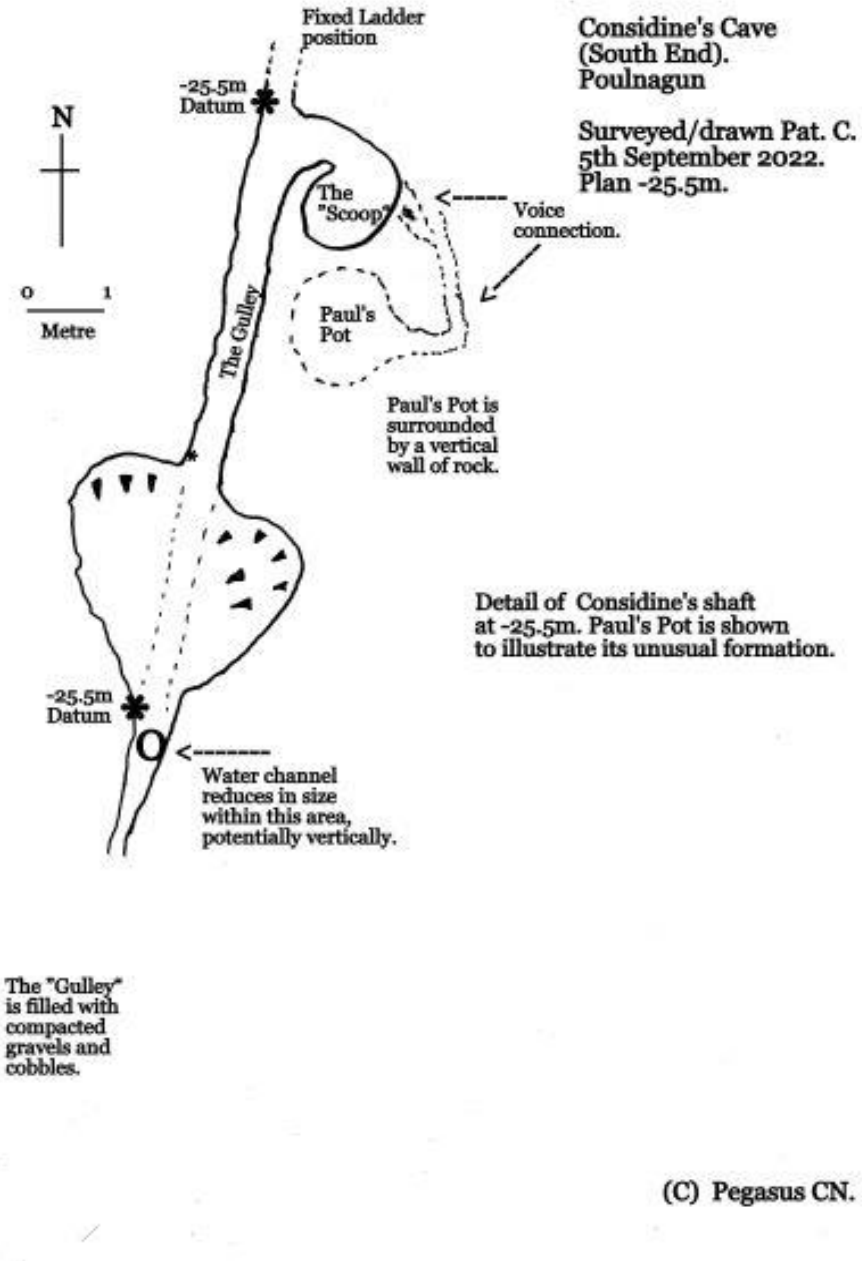
View sou-southwest to invert of overflow channel

Additional to Log (4th Sept).
MMcI showed an engineer's mark, (Bench Mark), which was carved on the sloping, west surface of the dressed, coping stone set atop the bridge wall, rather than on the vertical wall, as so often (normally) seen. Somewhat weathered, but discernable, just. Invisible unless specifically indicated. It appears the height datum it records is taken from the pointed apex of the coping stone. This is close to the projecting stone previously though as a "unusual" Bench Mark form, used to create the adjacent site datums and level. This difference in height requires adding to all datums.

5th September Considines (South End)
Cheg Chester
13:00. Cloud 10%: Wind ESE, F6/8: Visibility 20Nm: Ground dry-ish: medium stream. The Plan: assessment/surveying. CC surface support: PC below. PMcG had been busy. The base of the shaft, where it forms what may be described as a rugged area, is developing downward, pursuing the fault. Natural features show that water drains to this point. Cleared some debris from the top of the large "shelf" projecting from the west side. The roof of this bedding, above the "Shelf" shows water action flowing over the loosely compacted debris. A developing, vertical joint, similar to what developed into "Paul's Pot" is present on the west side, coming down to the area of the "Shelf". Its width at its present, visible bottom is around 150mm, this may increase. The crow bar can be pushed beneath the "Shelf", suggesting a loose filled cavity beneath; the area need be dug around and cleared to confirm; removal of this "Shelf", if not a boulder could be by snapper. Progress will now require two persons, as the area is constricted, and exhausting for one; the thirty kibble sessions will become but a memory. The "Western Passage" area can be utilized to store kibbles, prior to dispatch to surface. Forgot the 12mm drill bit, so needed rearrange the travel line belay by chipping a hole in a thin shelf, and the existing western bolt; believe this will work for the interim. Extended the survey datum, adjacent the climb, to -25.5m.

Set up the laser and extended this depth level through the “Gulley” to a datum at the south end of the “Gulley” and a third in the South Rift; all at -25.5m. Completed survey, the mud making shite of writing in the survey book. Took a depth to the “Shelf”, (-27.5m); this area does not appear similar to the North End, or the “Scoop”. Where a sudden reduction in passage size was swift and final: remain optimistic. Generator ½ full: CC fuel: fuel on site. Maintenance required.

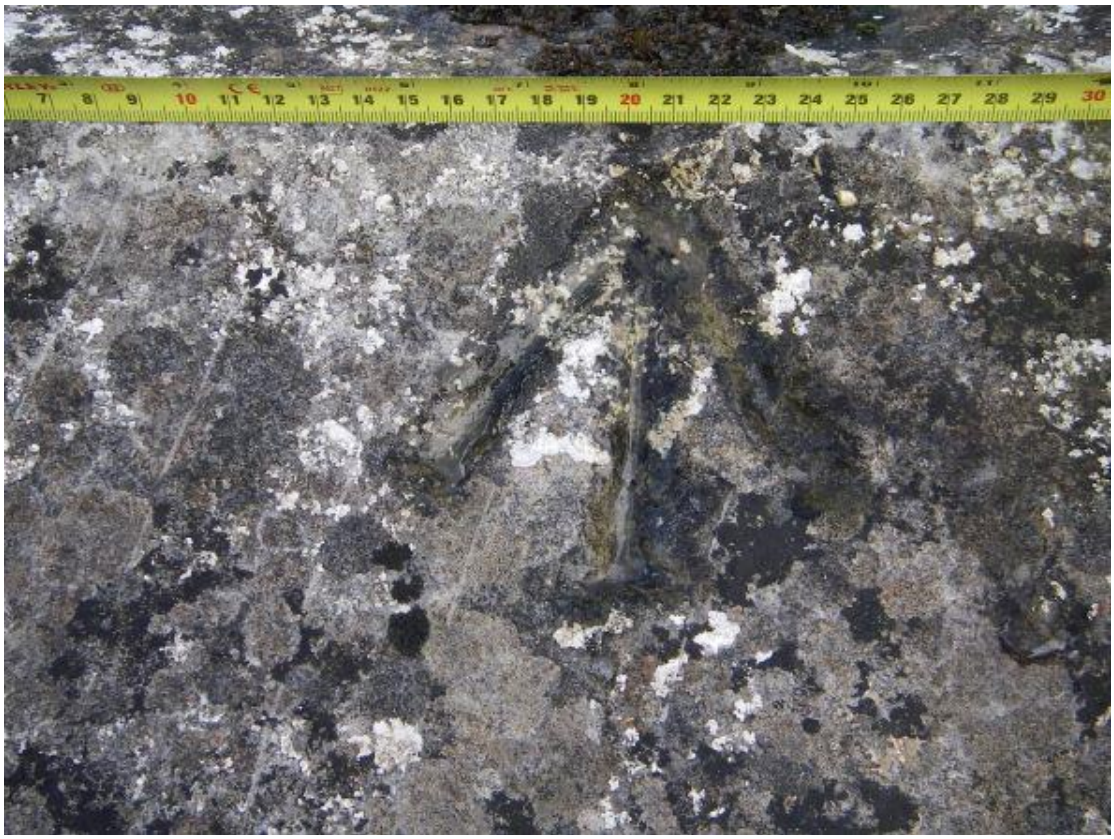
Hours 5 (3311), Southend (2261), Kibbles 0 (6684), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7621



5th September (2011) Lost Artur Kozlowski

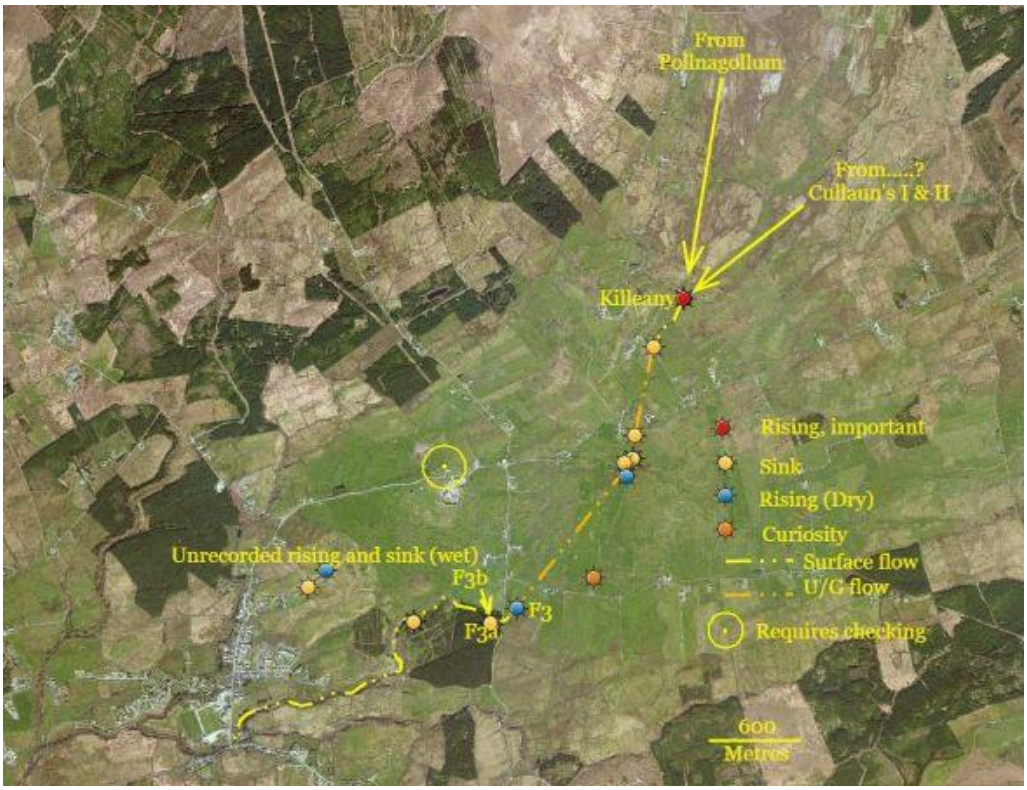
6th September Pol-an-Ionian
John Browne
Cloud 90%: Wind SSE, F5/6: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp. The Plan: requested provide assistance to visiting students. JB had been approached by a German university to conduct a tour and more; explain drainage of the Burren etc. Followed them around the one-hour tour answering questions on climate change influence of local flooding. The party and the tutors somewhat surprized to learn of the normal rainfall, here in the West.

7th September St. Breckan's Project
Solo
Cloud 70%: Wind E, F3/4: Visibility 30Nm: Ground dry-ish. The Plan: use real Bench Mark, to correct heights. Within minutes of setting up, came under observation from a van, which stopped and parked up some hundred metres away; ignored, got on with task. Wetted the Sapper's mark hoping make it clearer in the photo; the arrow cut to indicate the peak of the sloping coping stone, the actual datum point. Height difference is plus 0.72m. Approached after ten minutes by a local, after a pleasant chat jumped in the Hilux; MH enthusiastically directing PC to a "sink hole". Throughout the next two hours enjoyed the delightful company of One, Michael Hogan who provided invaluable data on ancient and modern flooding events. A mine of information, among which, who owned what land; bliss when the area where the F3a sink is located confirmed as Coillte. Deeper joy when guided to another three unrecorded sinks: alas no GPSR. Fortunately, the field where the main sinks are is, is owned by a pal, so access should not be an issue. Dropped MH back, exchanged phone numbers, he's available to play further. Cracking. Corrected datums are: Sink F3a, 106.56m OD. Ground level, southern goal mouth, 109.35m OD.



361.6ft Bench Mark on Bridge

View East. Bench Mark bridge location, junction of yellow tape measure and white rod.



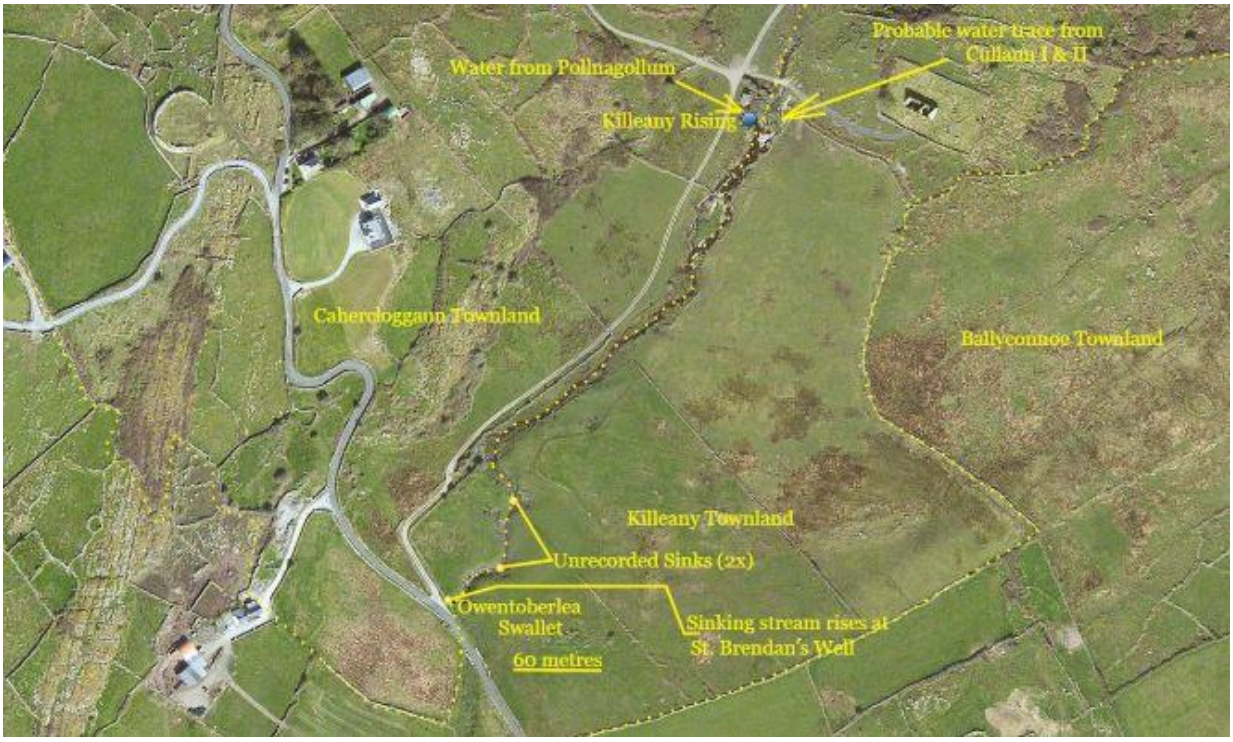
Sites downstream of Killeany, (F1) to Guthrie's Risings (F3)

8th September Lost Queen Elizabeth II.

8th September Prince Charles accedes the throne of England as King Charles III

9th September Considines Cave (South End).
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 90%: Wind NW, F3/4: Visibility 15Nm: Ground dry-ish: medium stream. The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG and PC digging. Both descended to dig the confined area; that is the physical extent of the South Rift. Took turns clearing the floor, following the rift floor down, vertically. Removing kibbles from this awkward area was accomplished by using short hauls by Senior winchman CC. This allowed the kibbles to be raised to -25m, and stacked with in "The Gulley", prior to raising to surface: the available fourteen kibbles were filled, with clay and cobbles. Digging forward in the rift, passed the "Shelf" to expose a drain hole in the floor, some 0.15m diameter, heading south, down through the compacted rift debris, at an angle of around 40˚. A little further forward, a very narrow rift heading west was encountered, with washed, silt floor. The projecting shelf does indeed appear to taper under itself, how far will be likely exposed next session, if by much, its removal will swiftly follow. As the shelf extended south, the height of the bedding increases; quite how much need to be exposed. PC surfaced to unload, barrow and dispose of the spoil; meanwhile, unknown to the others, PMcG continued to dig the confined area; a seriously difficult, solo task. Lifted fifteen kibbles before close of play; eight kibbles await lifting. Depth now -28m. Need see if the westward heading rift does just that and whether its size will allow excavation operations. Generator a little over ¼ full: full on site. Maintenance required.
Hours 9 (3320), Southend (2270), Kibbles 15 (6699), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7636

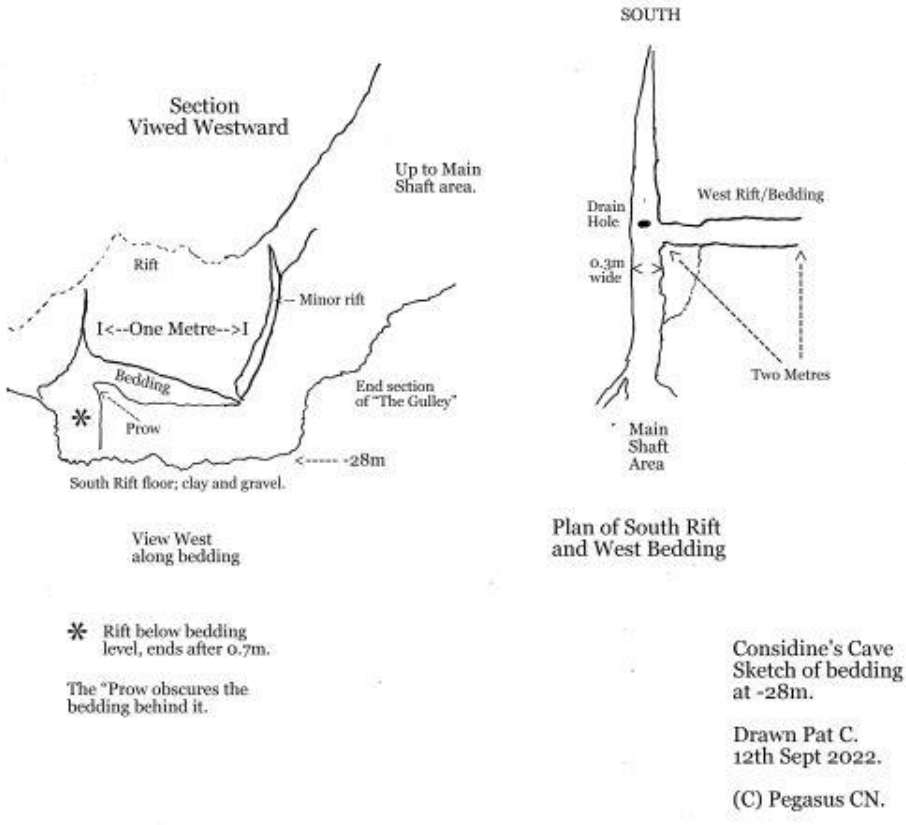
10th September Investiture of King Charles III

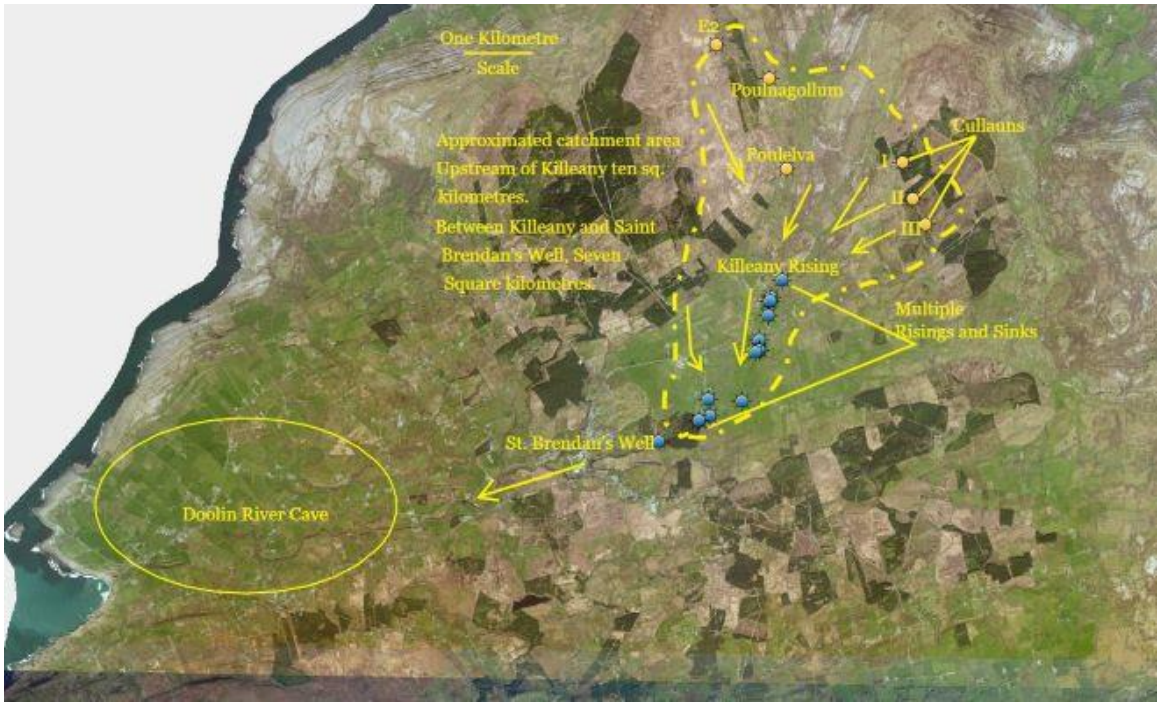


Two unrecorded sinks indicated on the map by E McNamara: 10 Sept 2022.

11th September St. Breckan's Project
James Owens
10:00. Cloud 100%, base 900ft: Wind SE, F2/3: Showers; light rain, increasing, since 04:00: Visibility 20Nm: Ground wet: The Plan: contacted by JO, who wanted guidance and information on cave entrance locations. Met up at McDermotts. JO is an enthusiastic individual; visited Polldubh Middle and South openings first, then Cullaun II. En-route outlined flooding awareness. At both Polldubh entrances took GPSR readings, to once again attempt improve on previous map reference accuracy, taken beneath the dense forestry canopy. To Owentoberlea Swallet, the sink adjacent the bridge, to assess volume of stream in relation to sink F3a, (some two kilometres distant). Appearing, some 0.7m deep, it disappeared swiftly. The channel, downstream the Bridge, showed signs of recent water flow. To sink, (F3a), adjacent the GAA pitch; no stream present. Need check with CC of rainfall last night. Long chat with E McNamara, who showed locations of Poultaloons, which, as a child, he and others were instructed to keep clear of debris, to reduce local flooding issues; much more, enlightening information exchanged. JO intends to return to Clare, as soon as practicable, to expand personal caving experience, and perhaps assist dig.

12th September Considines Cave (South End).
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 60%: Wind NE, F2/3: Visibility 30Nm: Ground wet: medium stream. The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG and PC digging. Descended, intending clear the entrance to rift seen developing westward at between -27.5m and -28m; at the junction of the South Rift. Again, slow progress, due to the confined location. Lowered the South Rift floor, exposing the lower part of "The Shelf", beneath which, the normal matrix of clays and cobbles remain constant in the floor of the 0.3m wide rift. Began to open the West Rift, manoeuvring around the awkward upturned corner of "The Shelf"; this "Prow" shape needs removing to improve access. Took turns digging out an interesting stratigraphy, a superb mixture of coloured clays and gravels that were deposited in the short section at the start of the west bedding; from which seemed to emerge a curious, faint, almost acrid odour, (possibly some form of decomposition?). One bright coloured clay was a yellow/cream, laying on top a course gravel: a small amount of grey clay reappeared, this is remarkably similar to that seen in Pol-an-Ionian. CC winched several kibbles onto the pile already in "The Gulley" for future removal. As the West Bedding was cleared, its size did increase, a little; though potentially enough to admit a Plumbers chest. Taking turns, as progress was made the floor of the rift at the beginning of the West Bedding was deepened to facilitate access; as the working face had reached some two metres in front. Before work commenced, it could be seen that some three metres ahead, the rift appeared larger; slightly. This is a third, albeit minor, development in the area of -26m, heading toward a common area off to the west. Efficiency was improved by packing some of the clay spoil into a small rift. Likewise, a small rift in the east wall was backpacked with cobbles. A seemingly pessimistic situation; the shape of the shaft in this area does not lend itself to the previous ease of filling and sending kibbles to surface. The next session will remove "The Prow", deploy a rake along the Bedding and remove all fourteen kibbles. Ascended, lifted one kibble to recover deployed hauling line. Well shagged out. Generator a little over ½ full: no fuel on site. Maintenance required.
Hours 7 (3327), Southend (2277), Kibbles 1 (6700), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7637





Estimated catchment area resurging at Guthrie's Risings and St. Brendan's Well.

14th September Faunarooska
Rachel Smith, Martyn Farr
12:30. Cloud 80%: Wind NE, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp: Stream small. The Plan: Photography. Previous high-water conditions inhibited RS and MF obtaining good results; hence this repeat trip. Steady trip carrying equipment, two nice sites identified; of which PC has little memory of them or their beauty. The second, larger grotto is quite superb. Back home checked the excellent survey in Caves of Northwest Clare, (1968?); the larger grotto appears some two hundred feet upstream of the wet pitch. Slow trip out: surfaced 17:00. Sense that numerous, muttering body parts will object loudly later on.

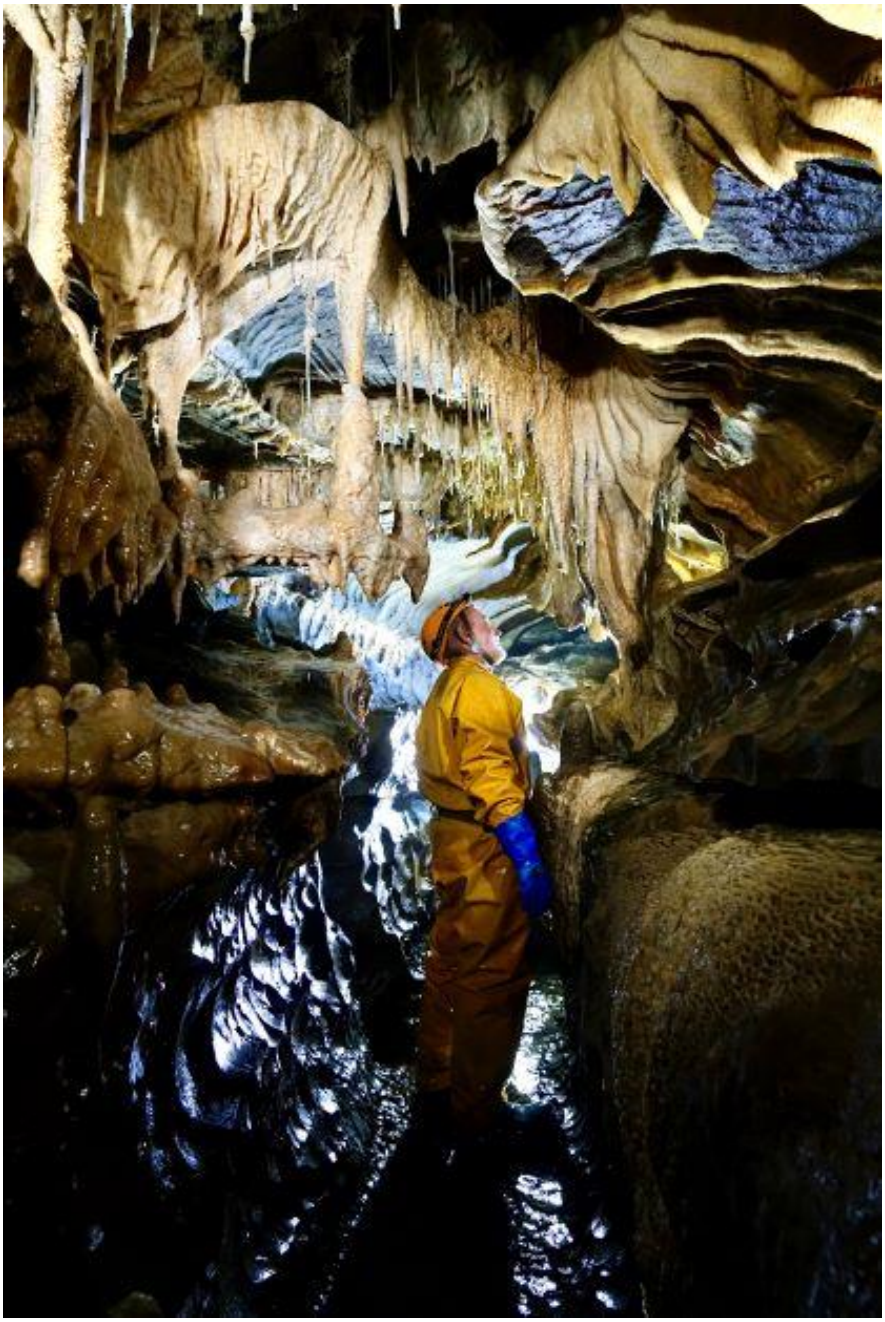
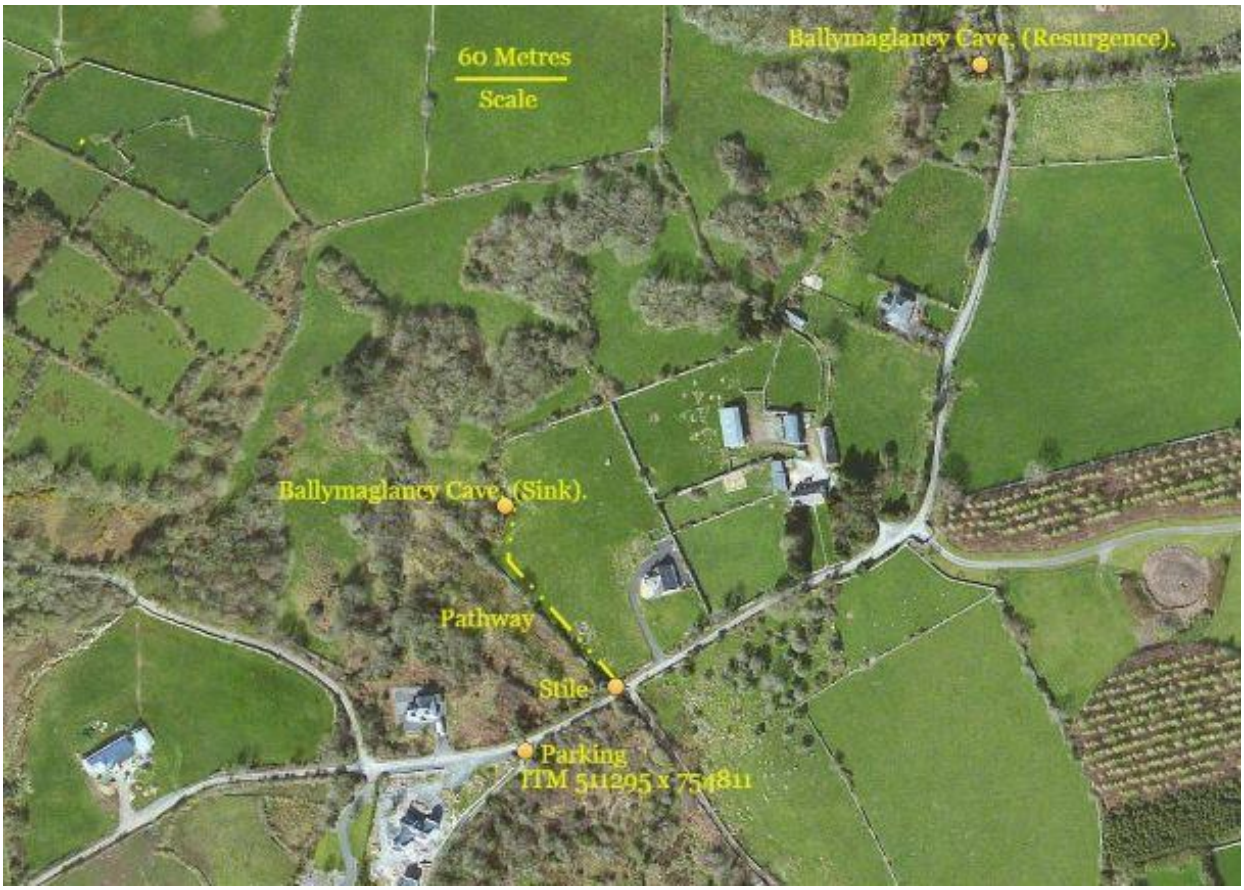


Photo Martyn Farr
PC in grotto, upstream of Wet Pitch

15th September Ballymaglancy Cave, Cong.
Una Donoghue, Eoin Mullan, Martyn Farr, Rachel Smith
18:00. Cloud 40% Wind N, F2: Visibility 20Nm: Ground dry: Stream low. The Plan: photography. Met up with the others at the large boulder on the roadside, at a driveway junction: swiftly underground. Dark Shamrock expeditions previously visited here, June 2002; supporting MF to dive the terminal sump. As MF successfully passed the sump, emerging from the resurgence pool, PC also surfaced having dug through a few boulders, to create a new entrance/exit. MF and PC had forgotten the wonderful content of the place: formations and sculpting, delightful. There appear differing beds of Limestone; based on their subtle colour differences and severity of water worn affect in each. Much photography conducted along this majestic streamway, commencing at the waterfall. Retracing route to surface, more images taken. Entered 18:20, surfaced 22:30, departed 23:00, Doolin 01:00. Cracking trip.



17th September Cullaun II
Martyn Farr, Rachel Smith, Paul McGrath
Cloud 10%: Wind NW, F2: Visibility 20NM, haze: Ground wet: Stream very small: The Plan: Photography. MF wanted to improve on previous images taken last October: very high-water conditions. Pleasant amble scrutinizing the place; a fine opportunity to really enjoy the less noticed formations: helictites particularly abound. MF checked the area of Pool Chamber search for the missing light, mislaid last October; no luck. Back home encountered JW, his family, Arkadiusz Plociniak, (Puk Oly), and Adam Seweryn; the new generation of cave divers. A very nice exchange of information.

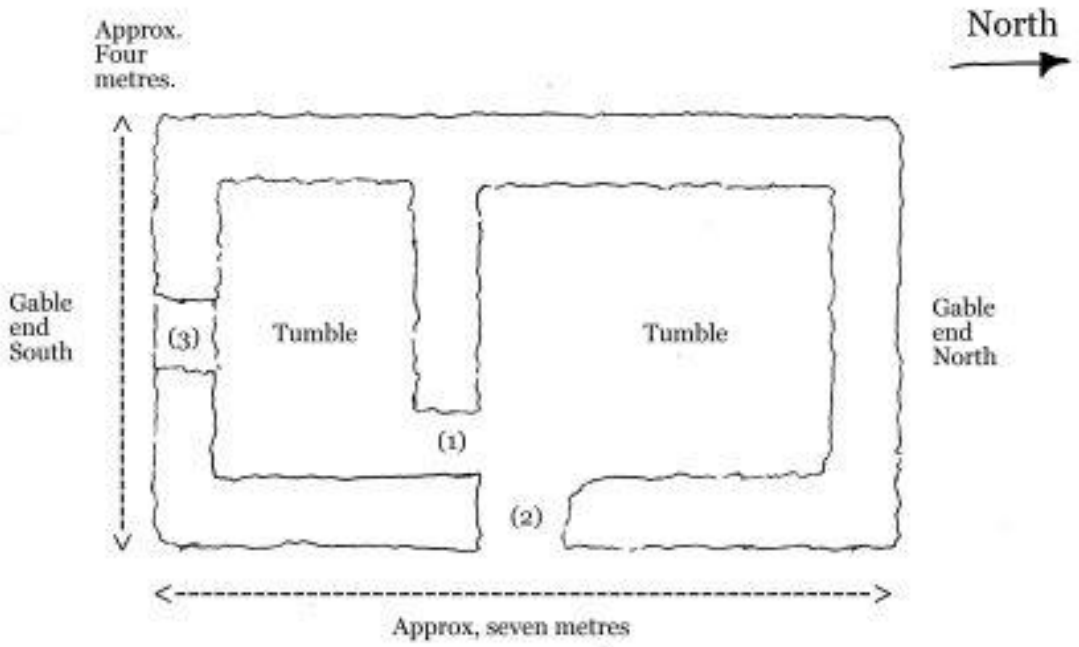
18th September Cappagh Mine, Cappagh Townland, Clare.
Sharon Parr, Cheg Chester
11:00. Cloud 95%: Wind S, F1: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp: The Plan: Initial visit to assess an unrecorded industrial archaeological site. Arranged to meet SP, on site: permission kindly granted to PC by the landowner after a previous exchange of correspondence. SP guided to the site, involving a mile walk through an array of fields and habitats. The mine is located the upper end of the valley, on its northern side; at an elevation of 110m.SP guided to the site, involving a mile walk through an array of fields and habitats. The mine is located the upper end of the valley, on its northern side; at an elevation of 124m.

From its entrance, what appears to be a drystone constructed causeway, descends toward the floor of the valley, at some 30˚. The surface of the "causeway" an untidy assemblage of loose limestone pieces. The mine is driven on a vertical vein; obvious mineralization is limited. Using a magnifying glass, CC believes Sphalerite, Iron Pyrites, perhaps Copper, and possibly Lead is present. The mine consists of two very short levels, five metres, or so long, the upper level driven directly above the lower. Within, mineralization is sparce. In the lower level two bore holes are present, each shallow; deepest perhaps 0.1m. Each appear slightly off circular, of minor triangular appearance, suggesting hand boring. On the far side of the valley, above the mine, on the visible summit, there appears to be a continuation of the fracturing, seen at the mine entrance. Whilst CC and SP examined the spoil area, PC moved over to examine the drystone building some sixty metres west of the mine, at much the same elevation, on a flat area of the steep mountainside. SP explained she had found a system of small fields, beneath the present canopy of Hazel etc. obscured from view, from this promontory. This usage may point to contemporary tillage by the miners, or of the building's subsequent takeover as a domestic dwelling.
The building is orientated North-South, constructed of well laid, drystone limestone; the size of stones varies from large, possibly glacial erratics at its corners, to thin bedding blocks. Its outside dimensions are approximately seven by four metres. The walls are some 0.65m thick.

There is a single window in the south gable, the single door is off centre of the eastern wall. Inside the remains of a drystone party wall, divides the interior into two distinct rooms, of a sixty/forty percentage of floor space; the larger room, the northern part of the building. There is no architectural evidence of a fireplace or chimney. CC, SP and PC took photos.
Building ITM 531275 x 701850 Mine ITM 531330 x 701860.

View east, Mine at top of dry-stone ramp

View northwest, south gable of building.



Legend
(1) Interior doorway, obscured by tumble.
(2) Main doorway.
(3) Window.

Building.
Drystone construction.
ITM 531275 x 701850
Elevation 124 m
Cappagh Townland.
Burren Barony
County Clare

(C) Pat C.

19th September Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II

19th September Considines Cave (South End).
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 60%: Wind NW, F2: Visibility 35Nm: Ground damp: tiny stream. The Plan: Dig. CC winching: PMcG and PC digging. PC descended, with drill to attack the horn projecting from "The Shelf", three 20mm holes were bored and a Gad inserted in each, in turn. Using a short-handled sledge, horn eventually removed. Fairly shagged, PC returned to surface to unload and barrow. Having lifted eight kibbles, PMcG called for PC to descend; approaching the South Rift, previously floored with gravels, clays and cobbles, PMcG proudly pointed to a two-metre-deep hole. Removing the floor, PMcG had been presented with this gap. A chert bed has been encountered, the narrow gap appears to have once been the calcite/quartz vein, forming the fault. Called for the sledge to be lowered back down to the dig. The pair then set about smashing off the numerous projections. Various contortions assessed that the floor of the area below appears to be a bedding development going off east and westward. More chiseling opened the gap further; PMcG made an unsuccessful attempt to squeeze down; a small buttress needs removing. From the adjacent -25.5m datum, the bottom of this rift, the bedding, is estimated as -29m. Below the chert bed either wall of the South Rift is fluted, many of the smaller projections were knocked off. Reflecting on the confined area, and potential phaffing about, will likely deploy a 110v hammer action power tool, to not only chain drill the larger, offending protrusions, but also have the ability chisel them off without recourse to swinging a sledge: a lengthy task, but achievable as not batteries involved. A pity The Farr departed for Wales midday, the dark, beckoning hole in the base of the South Rift would make a superb image. PMcG suggests a camera be lowered down into the void below to assess the areas out of sight, prior to further commitment; a sound idea. PC well knackered on surfacing. Before departure replaced the lower section of hose pipe with a longer piece, this will allow it to reach the new slot and allow the hose to be routed so as to avoid future entanglements with the Hauling Line. Will take camera along next session, and also make a sketch. Generator a little over ½ full: PMcG Fuel: no fuel on site. Maintenance required.
Hours 10 (3337), Southend (2287), Kibbles 8 (6708), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7645

21st – 22nd September Cheg's rain gauge, Kilshanny.
Cheg Chester
Rainfall, (24hrs), recorded as forty-four millimetres (44mm); 1.75 inches. PC awoken by increasing rainfall; heaviest period appearing between 04:30/05:00.
09:30, (22nd). Phone call from CC informing of volume. Hope to visit F3a sink, part of St. Breckan's Project, and possibly the larger of the recently recorded upstream sinks.

22nd September St Breckan's Project
Martin Becket, Alison Becket
13:00. Cloud 60%: Wind NW, F3/4: Visibility 10Nm: Ground wet: The Plan: inspect flow at F3a and adjacent overflow channel. Delighted to meet up with MB and AB, after such a long time. As requested, gave them a tour of the dig, then sped away to F3a sink. Before departure noted the cistern is empty, suspect mud etc. has compromised the water spray gun below; used plastic bag to seal cistern outlet.
15:00. Rainfall had had a significant effect at F3a; evidence of peak water flow noted at the upstream side of the bridge, the water mark sheltered from evaporation by the sun. The noted level just below overflow channel invert; a good flow disappearing into the smaller, adjacent, elevated sink, F3b.

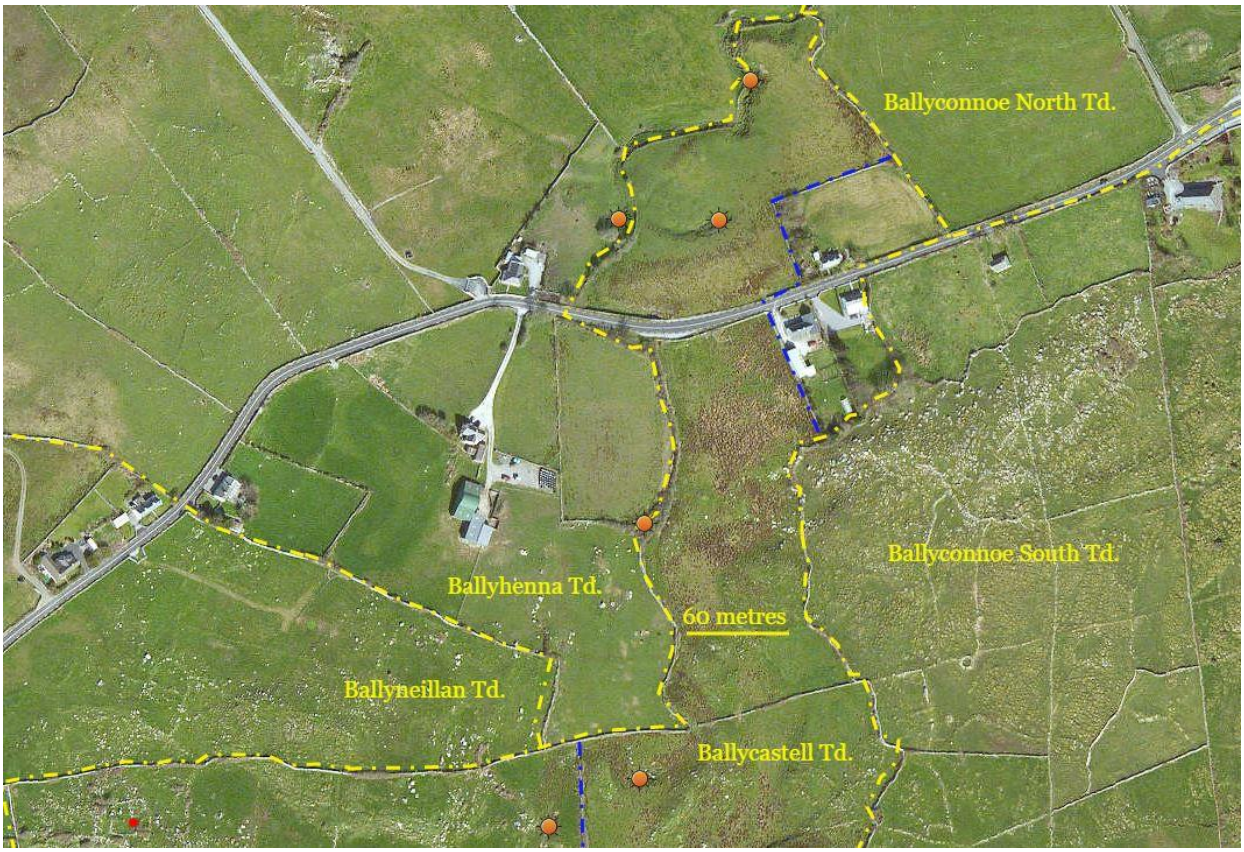
26th September Considines Cave (South End).
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath

13:00. Cloud 90%: Wind NW, F4, gusting F6: Visibility <20Nm: Ground damp: tiny stream. The Plan: deploy camera down the rift. CC winching: PMcG below: PC unloading and barrowing. PC secured a small video camera and light to a broom handle, lowered to PMcG who managed to insert himself into the South Rift, above the new opening. In this awkward position PMcG lowered and rotated the camera. The small screen did not lend itself to review on site, being partially obscured by numerous cable ties, so recovered and sent to surface. Further to the focused digging the collection of filled kibbles were sent to surface, as was the debris previously, temporarily dumped in the West Passage. Clay smeared walls were washed, exposing the superb dark grey limestone; doing so means potential deployment of power tools, will not be so covered in crud. Viewed from above there previously appeared to be a bedding, perhaps a foot high, (0.3m); wishful thinking? Screened, the video is somewhat difficult to interpret. Unfortunately, a bedding appears absent; bugger, bugger, bugger. Will let CC and PMcG review video. Believe it's worth excavating the solid rock to enlarge rift, to double check the situation. Generator a little over ½ full: no fuel on site. Maintenance required.

Hours 7 (3344), Southend (2294), Kibbles 22 (6730), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7667

27th September St. Breckan's Project

Unexpectedly bumped into Gus; unhesitatingly agreed to PC's request to access a parcel, (80 acres), of Gus's significant farmland, northeast of St. Breckan's GAA pitch; within the townland of Ballygastell, (503 acres), Conversation described a further three poultaloons and varying rainfall volume effects on adjacent, and surrounding landscape.



Showing sites of interest on Gus Fitzgerald's land, Ballygastell.

28th September St. Breckan's Project.
Solo
18:15. Cloud 75%: Wind NW, F2: Visibility 30Nm: Ground damp: River; clear and small. The Plan: probe the sink. Found the river flowing, swiftly; conservatively estimated water 0.3m deep, some five metres upstream the bridge. Tried to measure speed, by dropping sticks into the flow; none emerged from the west side of the bridge. Found the small drystone stock wall, long since built across the west side the bridge, was exposed by half its height therefore collecting all items thrown in. Repeated experiment, throwing items further upstream, timing them wash along an estimated distance of five metres. These calc's, based on estimated depth of water; the river three metres wide, (ignoring that obscured in the water weed), suggests a flow of between 0.7m³ and 0.9m³/second. At the sink, found the water level some 0.4m below the survey datum. The approaching winter is manifest as much of the foliage; nettles, is dying back. Facing the sink, viewing west; to the right is a hole taking something like 40% the extant river.

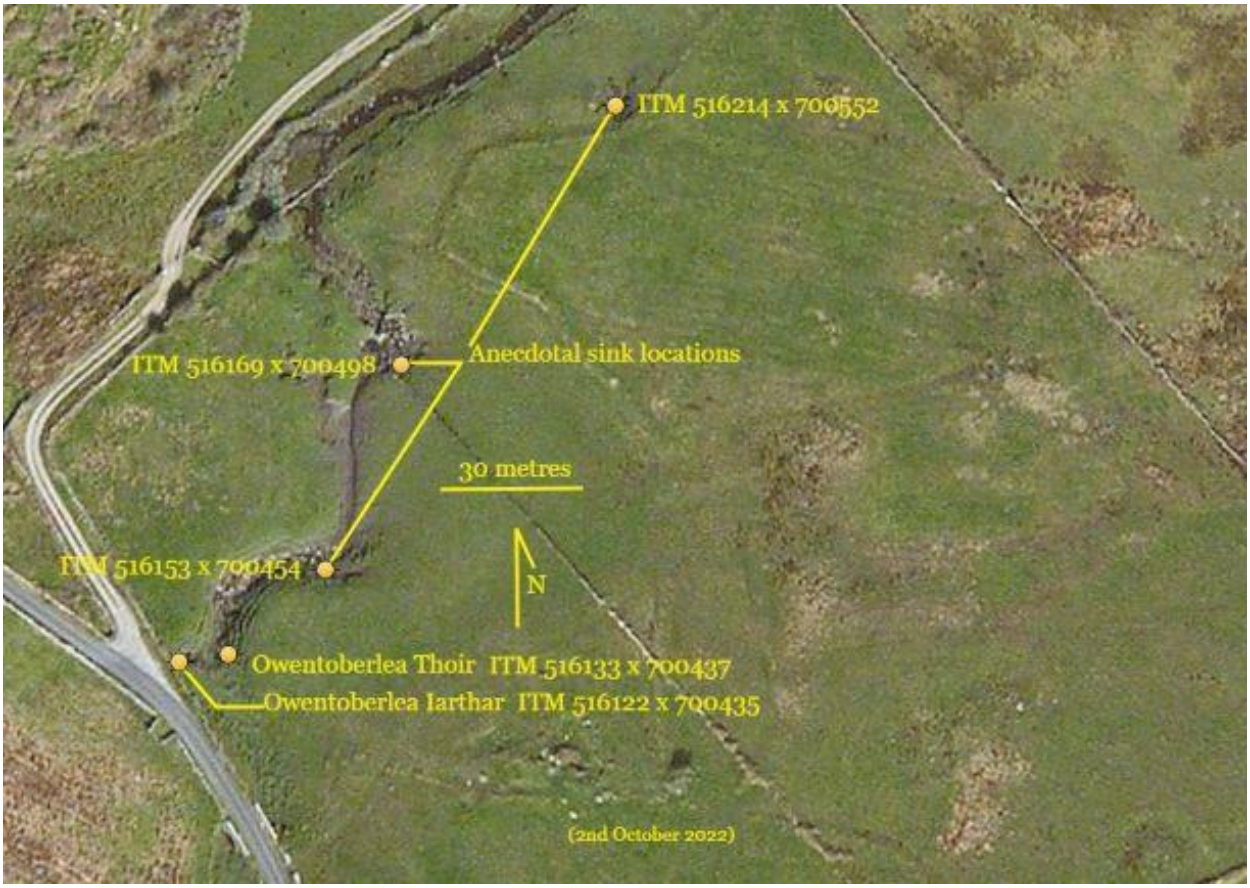
View west from bridge, flow estimated at 0.7m³ and 0.9m³/second.

View east, from bridge, flow estimated at 0.7m³ and 0.9m³/second.

To the left, in the corner, a similar volume disappears. The remainder appears to pass beneath the bedrock on which the survey datum is fixed. Thrashing through the nettles, above the corner sink, found a gulley, containing evidence of sinking water; three x 150Kg boulders have peeled off the west wall and sit in this gulley. At its upper end, a hole is present, also showing evidence of flow. Working along this shallow gulley, back to the sink found it is in fact a choked rift, starting where the right-hand river sink is located. Above and slightly right, within the metre high nettles is another upper hole/sink, showing signs of flow. It seems politic, perhaps a more surgical act, to dig the rift, rather than remove the boulders in the depression. As the river disappeared, thought any cave entered here will require far more caution than that of the Coolagh River Cave.

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

1st October Carnaun: finally installed replacement rain gauge.



Owentoberlea sinks, 2nd October

2nd October St. Breckan's Project: (F3a and lower Owentoberlea sinks).
Solo
Cloud 30%: Wind W, F2: Visibility 25Nm: Ground damp. Rain gauge, 5mm: River; 0.3m deep in arch. The Plan: install river level gauge. Thwarted by depth of flowing river to install gauge, again. Moved to the sink, (F3a); began to dig the top end of the choked rift, just beyond the three large boulders. Cleared nettles etc. Small quantity of clay/silt present; removed, mostly, angular stone, up to 0.250mm diameter, managed to expose a thin vertical joint, (50mm). wide; about a metre deep. Found an edge and cleared the area, which became a flat limestone surface. Believe the east side of this may be the same lump the datum is secured to. Cleared beyond the upper boulder exposing a narrow gap, again with washed stone and natural flood detritus. Finished with an exposed flat surface with the narrow, vertical gap. Investigated where the lower river flow was actually sinking. As the water emerges from the narrow channel, some eight, or so metres back from the datum, it divides. About half disappears into the boulders, before the main sink, the other, divides once more, sinking in the south wall of the exposed bedrock, with plenty of gurgling. From the bridge the dig scar is not obvious, unless looked for; hooray. Assessed the area of the flood channel to prepare for further surveying; plan to take levels from the sink datum. Checked flow of the Owentoberlea; best depth estimate, 0.3m. Encountered Raymond Casey, who offered permission to wander his land; potentially containing a nice souterrain, delighted: need, precisely check ownership. At Owentoberlea water level low enough to clearly see east and west sinks. Owentoberlea sink, Thoir ITM 516133 x 700435. Owentoberlea sink, Iarthar ITM 516123 x 700436.
The rift dug was sighted along its three - four, estimating its alignment as roughly NE/SW.

3rd October Considines Cave (South End).
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 90%: Wind S, F4, gusting F6: Visibility <20Nm: Ground damp: medium stream. The Plan: further deployment of camera down the rift. PMcG descended and soon had the filming completed. After which the floor below "The Slot" was probed, revealing the fallen debris, covering of the bedrock was a few inches thick. PMcG's probing exposed a hidden rift, like "The Slot, immediately above, it too is small of width, much less than "The Slot". The small West Passage was dug a little more, though small it warrants pushing to a conclusion. PMcG's attention returned to the base of "Paul's Pot", where, it appeared things had changed; inverting himself, PMcG almost filled a kibble with cobbles. Two kibbles were sent to surface. At surface discussion reviewed the original idea to dig this confined area, should the main shaft fail to develop. Such will be the plan; the next session will focus on this area. Generator a little under ½ full: no fuel on site.

Hours 7 (3351), Southend (2301), Kibbles 2 (6732), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7669

4th October St. Breckan's Project, (multiple sites).
Solo
11:00. Cloud 100%, base 600ft: Light rain: Carnaun Rain gauge 27mm: Wind SW, F2/3: Visibility <20Nm: Ground damp: River high. The Plan: investigate overnight's 27mm rain. Went to F3a sink first; the GAA field had flooded, but almost, completed gone by 11:10. Took photo of level in relation to a large fence post in the northeast field. Moved to Ballygastell; the extant stream volume significant. Delightedly followed the tumbling stream southwards: a superb opportunity to observe the flow from Killeany. One anecdotal sink, hidden within briars, was wholly obscured. Though the stream ran beneath the foliage, the same volume appeared to exit, from the hedgerow, some ten metres downstream. Experienced minor issues with cattle protecting their young. Approaching the point of interest, more than a little surprized at the stream/river volume sinking. Took photos. Moved to the north of the road, again on pal's land; the area all but underwater. Took photos. To Killeany, took photos, where the Owentoberlea passes beneath the small bridge. Track to Killeany rising under two feet of flood water. Returned to the bridge to plan next stage of project. Image taken of river level at St. Brendan's bridge did not happen; operator error, somewhere, but level remembered as base of calcite covered block; river audible from road above. Scampered into the Irish Arms, for a birthday pint.

View east of river level, referenced against fence post; after 27mm of rain.

View east of river sinking in Sluggagh.

View south, of boulders long since placed into Poultaloon.

View south of river three metres upstream of sink.

View northwest of sink

View southwest of sink.

View southwest, of bridge downstream of Killeany rising.

View north-ish of river adjacent to St. Brendan's Well, approach St. Brendan's Bridge.

5th October St. Breckan's Project; F3a, Ballygastell
Solo
10:00. Cloud 80%: Light showers: Carnaun Rain gauge 24mm: Wind W, F5/6: Visibility <30Nm: Ground wet: The Plan: inspect effect of overnight rainfall; 24mm. River level was unchanged at the F3a bridge, the river still lapping the base of the large post, observed yesterday. At Killeany bridge water level was up, a little, from yesterday.

Killeany Bridge 11:30, 4th October, after 27mm rain.

Killeany Bridge 10:20, 5th October, after further 24mm rain.
Estimated height gain, about four inches, 100mm.

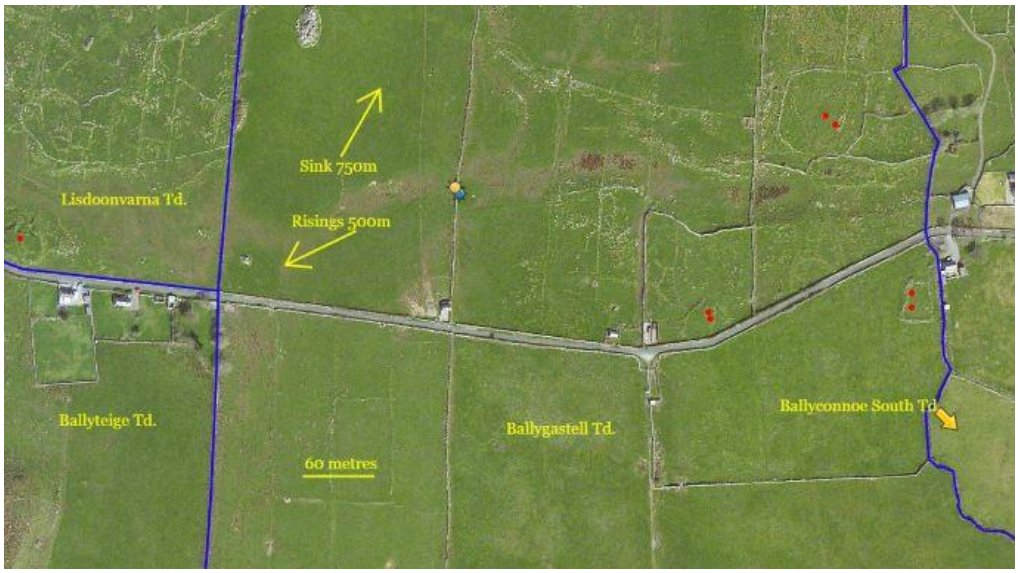
Walked to the principal sink, found stream/river flow much reduced. Took photos. Meandered back toward the Hilux, following the stream; heard gurgling, found significant amount of stream disappearing beneath a large block; part of the field wall. Further wandering found another obscured poultaloon, it too taking a large percentage of the stream/river. Puzzled over flow, particularly why last night's rain has had little, or no effect on the river level at F3a; the heavy rain only ceasing around 04:30. Observed, elevated stream level at Killeany Bridge, a possible result of residual runoff, from rainfall the night of the 3rd October. Need study wind direction effect on the upper area of the catchment area; though last night was westerly, southwesterly. Eventually found GF, spoke at length of land drainage. Introduced to Thomas, son-in-law, with land in Kilfenora. Explained, asked by Emmet McNamara to investigate why the GAA pitch now floods on a seemingly regular basis, when it did not in the late 1980s/90s, when games were often played there.

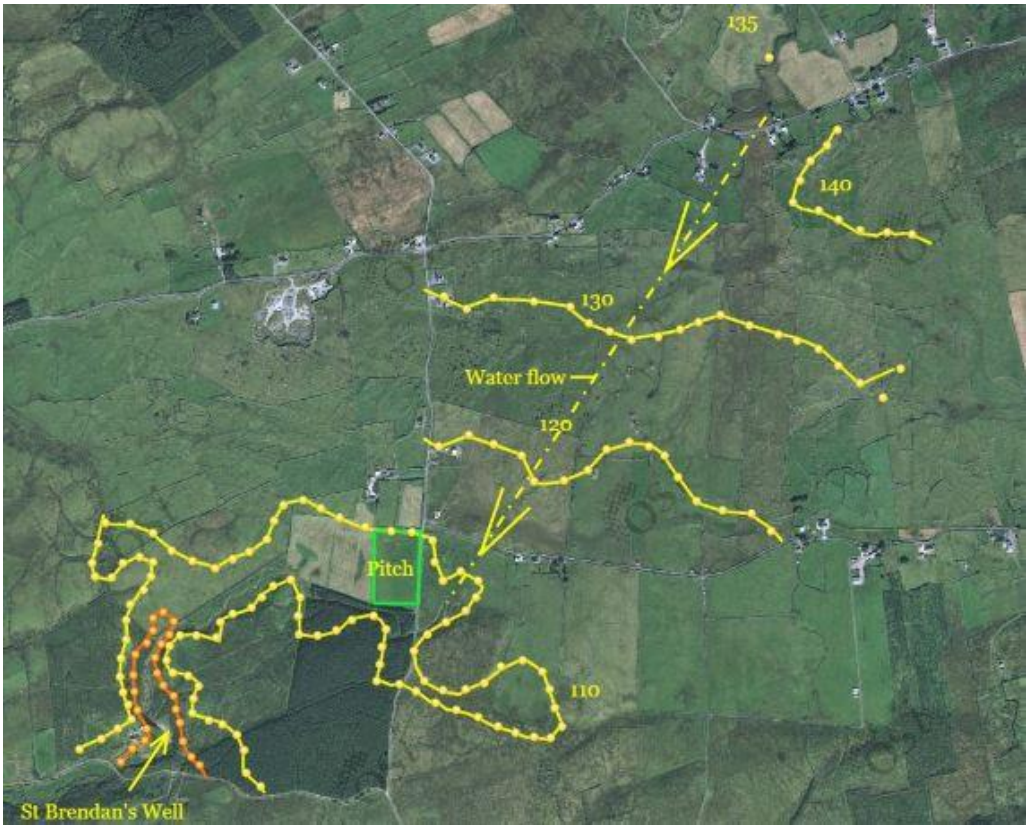
Sink beneath boulder.

Sink beneath the wall, centre image; house for reference.

View east of main sink, Ballygastell. ITM 515992 x 699740

4th October; additional
Questioned, Gus Fitzgerald related how Murt's McInerny's Uncle, would "lash two ladders together, to descend a thirty foot well, to clean away accumulated silt, allowing the hand pump to function", GF knew the uncle, (living memory). This well is at ITM 515752 x 698991. Adjacent the substantial enclosing drystone wall, (two metres high), on the north side, in a gap, in the north/south dry-stone field wall, is a poultaloon, ITM 515749 x 698997, covered by a large boulder. The large field, to the west, was leveled by machine some years ago. Before which, the landscape was similar to that visible southeast of Toomaghera of the N67





Contours relating to surface drainage toward and beyond the pitch

6th October Considine's Cave (South End), Sink F3a
JW, PC
17:00. Cloud 90%: Wind S, F4, gusting F6: Carnaun rain gauge 4mm: Visibility <10Nm: Ground wet: large stream. The Plan: Photography. JW agreed to conduct a photographic record of the place. With time in hand visited the sink, where the river level had reduced to the top of the small wall built across the bridge arch, in the stream bed, a difference of over two metres. The datum was some 0.2m under water. The overflow channel had freshly flattened foliage. Lengthy explanation of data accrued on the catchment area thus far. Generator a little under ½ full: no fuel on site. Hour/s 1 (3353), Southend (2303), Kibbles 0 (6732), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7669

7th October Halliday's Hole - St. Brecken's Project, (multiple sinks).
Solo
12:00. Cloud 75%: Wind SW, F6: Carnaun rain gauge 12mm: Visibility <20Nm: Ground wet: River, top of vertical wall of arch. The Plan: visit Halliday's Hole, (MQ04), discovered by PCN 2020. Arrived Faunarooska Cross to a vista, blasted by a rain storm, waited ten minutes, the weather front disappeared far to the SW, facing a long wait, changed tack. Headed for F3a. Found River level risen to the topmost joint of the vertical wall of the bridge. Decided to call on Murt McInerney, as invited. Spent thirty minutes wandering along the road, much hand waving and pointing. A well, (-20m?), now sealed, was descended by northern cavers in the 1960s; witnessed by MMcI. They went no further than the base of the well.
Informed adjacent fields owned by Shane Considine, Kevin O'Brien, Martin Nyland. To Killeany rising Bridge; water level about 0.6m lower. To GF's land north of the N67; the lake of the 4th October, gone. Within this rich pasture are two choked sinks. The owner is a cautious farmer, negotiating permission will need patience. To the west is another sink, need speak to adjacent householder.

Location imagery


Sink three, view southwest.

Sink three, view southwest

Sink 2, view south

Sink 1, view west

Landowners in the project area.

Note both deep wells, reputedly six feet diameter.

9th October Sink F3a, Halliday's Hole, (MQ04), MQ06
Solo
16:00. Cloud 80%: Wind NW, F6: Carnaun rain gauge 9mm: Visibility <20Nm: Ground soaking: The Plan: Informative. PMC's flu driven temperature approaching normal. Sneaked out to assess recent rainfall effect at several dig sites. The river at F3a covered the survey datum by, about twelve inches, (0.3m). Headed north, parked up at Faunarooska Cross, walked to Halliday's, which was taking a very large stream. Headed off south noting how a lot of surface water amalgamated among the grass and reeds along the shale margin to sink in grykes, within two metres or so of the small cliff face, shallow channels at the cliff's base suggest their possible emergence. Heading south from Halliday's, followed the sound of falling water to a small depression. Deployed the curtain rod, exposed a common form of sink hereabouts; a small, 0.7m diameter cavity, formed on a north/south joint, two metres deep. Relocated MQ06, though audible stream flow was obscured by surface vegetation, noted a good volume of water sinking in this steep sided, four metre, diameter, conical depression. This site calls out to be dug; ever the optimist.

10th October Halliday's Hole, (MQ04).
Paul McGrath
14:00. Cloud 70%: Cool: Wind NW, F2: Carnaun rain gauge 11mm: Visibility >30Nm: Ground wet: The Plan: Dig. As CC departs for the UK, chose to examine the potential of Halliday's Hole. Digging the rift in the bottom of "Paul's Pot" will need reassembly of the previous hauling deviation; requiring winchman present. Parked at Faunarooska Cross, walked in via small cliff near MQ06. Deployed ladder down MQ04, secured to small bush, south side of the depression. Stream much reduced since yesterday. Minor amount of leaf, twig debris in the entrance rift stream crawl. Checked integrity of the chamber roof; large blocks and bedrock, stable and secure. The chamber appears located directly beneath the shallow depression adjacent the main depression. Examined the short climb down into the terminal rift, consisting of two boulders, each two hundred kgs a piece. Though jammed they rest on a floor of broken shale, grey course clays with an iron content. Digging along the rift, with these two perched lumps above is risky. Their inevitable destabilizing by stream action is unacceptable. The narrow rift passage shows development, presently believed, toward the north; similar to Faunarooska and Poulballyelly. The subtle sloping passage, descends around 5°. Stones thrown through the 100mm, stream gap, at the far end of the rift, fell some two metres, some landed with a minor echo, others a small splash. Estimated spoil volume to be removed, around two cubic metres. The confined awkward conditions requiring some effort. Space to stack spoil is very limited. Will obtain and fill sandbags with the unstable spoil; contained they remove concerns of stream flow eroding loose spoil, deposited above the digging area. Using a nail bar, successfully dropped the two boulders forming a stable support downstream of the loose fill of the chamber floor. The furthest boulder requires its end removed to improve access to the dig. Just beyond this, a flake of limestone needs shattering and removing. This site can only be dug in dry conditions, requiring a 0.5m deep pit excavated then progressed along the rift, and repeated. Loose fill bagged; boulders encountered used to pave the streambed. The place well worth investing several sessions. Returning to the Hilux, explained to PMcG the multiple discoveries researching the area. Estimated length of Halliday's Hole at eighteen metres, maybe twenty, depth ten metres. Need to survey site.

14th October (04:00, 1996) Lost the Mother

14th October St. Breckan's Project, F3a
Solo
15:00. Cloud 70%: Cool: Wind S, F2: Carnaun rain gauge 2mm: Visibility >30Nm: Ground damp: The Plan: secure river level gauge to south wall of bridge arch. Arrived to find standing water under the bridge and fifteen metres downstream. Though a small volume of flow seen entering, no flow evident through the dry-stone wall, the west end of the bridge arch, nor exiting the pool. The slightly raised area, creating the downstream pool, appears formed by deposition of silt. Secured gauge to south side of bridge arch, visible from the northeast river bank. Measured the ruinous dry stone wall's irregular apex, averaging the multiple heights, measured from the tunnel floor, as 0.7m. However, will base initial flow calculations from the unimpeded height of 0.75m, above dry-stone wall summit; the black head of a fixing denotes this level of 0.75m. Further work may quantify actual flow through the dry-stone wall, using another level gauge downstream. Though the flow will vary through the gap in the wall as the depth of the river increases, this is too great a variable, will likely be satisfied measuring such flow at say one metre depth.
Visited sink, F3a, noting minor puddles en-route. Poked the three sinks against the south and west faces of the depression's bedrock. Settled on digging the sink, on the right of the survey datum; west face, north end. Removed a large boulder, exposing layers of small, washed, fractured stones, several nicely water worn. Further scrabbling revealed a small bedding entering the left, from beneath the "bedrock" where survey datum is secured. More ferreting exposed a large flat boulder, 0.7m x 0.4m x 015m, (sixty kilo?). Scampered back to the Hilux for the nail bar, managed to move the boulder a little; needs more excavation around it. Not kitted out to dig, so abandoned grubbing about. Returned with a small saw, trimmed branches at normal human eye height, along both routes to bridge and sink, reducing issues for taller chums.

View southeast, 11:20, gauge submerged; after 28mm of rainfall, (night of 14th/15th Oct).

15th October St. Breckan's Project,
Solo
11:00. Cloud 100%: Wind SW, F6: Thunder storms: Carnaun rain gauge 28mm: Visibility <5Nm: Ground wet: The Plan: check river gauge following 28mm of rainfall, with a southwesterly wind. On the north side, the river level was up against the large fence post, a level previously noted, after similar rainfall. Took an unimpeded walk through the forestry to view the river gauge; estimated top of gauge to be some 0.6m under flood level; took photo. Need additional gauge on the south side, west side of the arch, to measure these larger flood events, calibrated to existing gauge. With this flood level, all but filling the bridge tunnel, an additional gauge would be visible downstream, flood level in the forestry allowing. The closest forestry drainage ditch to the river had a current flowing, discharging into the flow downstream of the crown of the overflow channel.
NB. 16mm of rainfall recorded between 10:00 and 14:30; localized flooding.
NB.
Check potential sink; ITM 515050 x 698599, 120m southwest of F3a, 90m downstream from small bridge at ITM 515141 x 698588, 125m south, along road from main bridge.

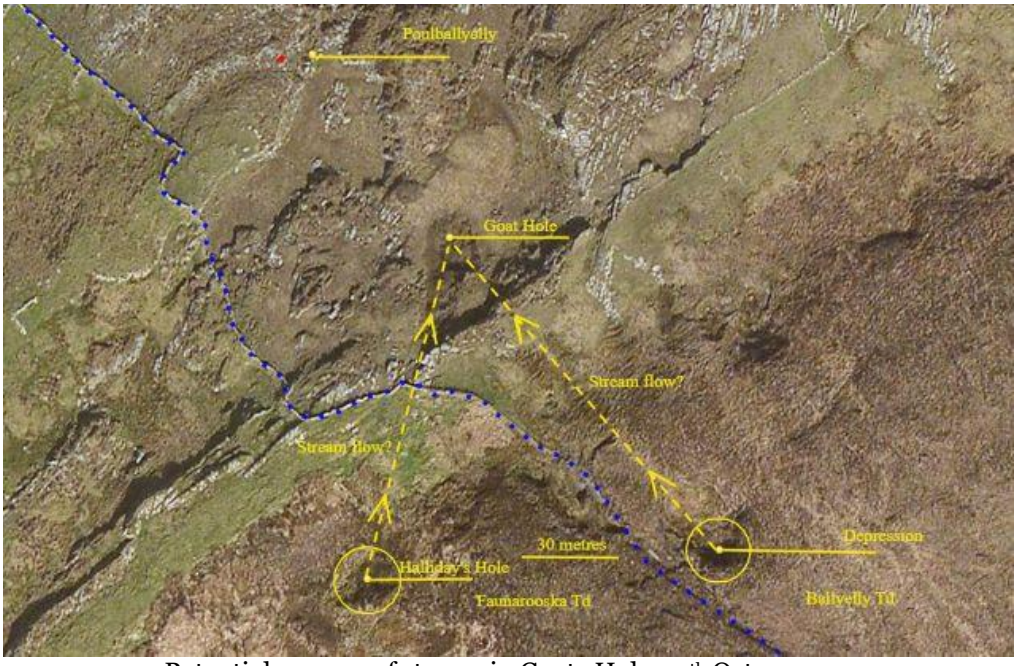
16th October Souterrain CL004-093002
Solo
11 :00. Cloud 100%: Wind E, F4, gusting F6: Rain: Carnaun rain gauge 19mm: Visibility <10Nm: Ground wet: The Plan: Check souterrain data entered on the national database, after recent visit by state employed archaeologists recorded this souterrain as accessible.

Archaeology.ie national database. "Within the N interior of a cashel (CL004-093001-). A souterrain with a rubble filled entrance opening at SSE leading to an 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".
Compiled by Mary Tunney & Lynda McCormack 13th June 2022.

Entered ringfort, via trimmed route, previously accessed with Nigel Burns, 23rd December 2019; the route and interior of the ringfort identical to the previous trip; dense foliage obscures much of its perimeter, the clear-ish, centre area, losing its battle with encroaching Hazel and briar. Bewildered, no evidence of cutting, clearance or trimming of Hazel, Hawthorn, etc. No part of the submitted description is recognizable. Doubled checked ITM, accessing Archaeology.ie website, via mobile. ITM confirmed as the precise location as souterrain referred in update: confused. Will contact record authors and landowner to clarify.

17th October Goat Hole, (A1a, UBSS ref)
Paul McGrath
ITM 514570 x 705170.
13:00. Cloud 90%: Wind W, F6 gusting F8: Rain: Carnaun rain gauge 19mm: Visibility <10Nm: Ground wet: The Plan: investigate site potential, (Dig).
Goat Hole is recorded as "bulldozed flat", since the 1970s. In the 2000s, the comment, "slumped", was added to its entry. Identified site during research, (2nd January 2021), its corrected ITM, from the Cave Entrance Project Database, was passed on to GM, (UBSS) for their records.
Parked up at the 800ft elevation junction to Caherbullog farm. En-route to Goat Hole explained to PMcG the area's potential; Poulballyelly entrance noted as open.
Goat Hole is a large, deep, teardrop shaped depression, conservatively estimated as twenty metres long and ten metres broad, (its widest). The "bowl" of the depression, has formed at its northern end. No evidence of recent cattle grazing the shallow valley leading to the site; need find the owner of this parcel of land. Entered the steep sided depression from the south side, carefully avoiding damaging the dense hazel bush, perimeter cattle barrier. Beneath the canopy, exists a beautiful moss-covered environment. The original entrance clearly visible; from a small hole in the floor of the depression, near the entrance issues the sound of a large stream. Enlarging the opening, noted at a depth of 0.4m, a ½" light gauge plastic water pipe, buried by migrating silts. The area below, a mass of clean washed stones, the wall to the south, possible solid. Inside the entrance, formed by large boulders, a silt covered floor leads, after three metres, to a transverse rift. This rift had three lumps of limestone each around 65kgs. Using belts and brute strength, all three lifted clear. Over two hours the rift was cleared out to a depth of a metre; conditions very awkward. As depth increased the rift widened to 0.6m, and appears continue. Progress along the rift was around a metre. Approximately halfway to a small part of the main stream outside, flowing right to left. Above this "streamway", between the large boulders are two large cavities, washed out by flooding. At the base of the solid rock, north side, a bedding is visible, probing with a nail bar proved it to be over 0.5m long: length of nail bar. Further scrabbling removed more large cobbles, all angular. Silt deposition becoming akin brown porridge. Spoil deposited in the cavity next to the entrance. The site needs lowering, possibly to solid floor, when it will be lower than the stream seen two metres beyond. There is the encouraging sound of stream falling, with a small echo.....Left nail bar and shovel inside. Need length of rope, bailer, 2 x small kibbles, long crow bar and two pulleys.



Potential sources of stream in Goats Hole. 17th Oct 2022.

18th October, (2014) Graduated NUI Galway, Hons.

18th October Tetra Radio Course

22nd October Blue Light Driving Course; Dublin
Classified, Very low Risk

23rd October (17:05 2014) Lost the Brother

23rd October St. Brecken's Project, Cullaun II
Oliver Brain, (OB)
10:30. Cloud 90%: Wind SSE, F2: Multiple columns of unstable cloud: Carnaun rain gauge 29mm: Visibility <20Nm: Ground very wet: The Plan: View River status after rainfall. Collected OB from the Rainbow hostel; to the GAA pitch via St. Brendan's Bridge. River almost flowing over the invert into the overflow channel; a good flow into the elevated sink, (F3b). Surprized the place not inundated. Should a digger be deployed to remove the accumulated silt, blocking the overflow channel, it is a minor ask to clear the area of the sink F3b. Flood evidence visible up the banks beneath St. Brendan's Bridge, and in the overflow channel. Of the 29mm of rain recorded over the previous twenty-four hours no elevated flood issuing from Guthrie's Rising; is this due to wind direction? No flow beneath Toomaghera road bridge, nor flooding of GF's land to the north of the road.
13:00. Cullaun II. Good sized stream. Sent OB ahead, to better enjoy the trip; a pleasant amble down the streamway. The unsettled weather of some concern, hence turning at Pool Chamber. OB enjoyed the trip though enduring borrowed kit, without complaint. OB nice bloke, enquired of possibly joining PCN on his return to Nottingham.

24th October Considine's Cave (South End)
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath, Oliver (Ollie) Brain.
13:00. Cloud 90%: Wind W, F2: Carnaun rain gauge 4mm: Visibility <25Nm: Ground very wet: large stream. The Plan: Dig. Focused on digging the small floor area in the back of "Paul's Pot",

as this was not expected to reveal much, to then clear the fill from “The Gulley”. CC winching: PMcG & OB digging: PC unloading and barrowing. Excavating “Paul’s Pot” the team revealed a rift descending, appearing to develop north-ish, and narrow; ten kibbles of spoil were removed before pausing digging here for the moment. The area beneath difficult to assess from the approach position. Clearing the bottom of “The Gulley”, adjacent the lowest point previously reached, uncovered another "pot", which appears mimic the deeper one to the south; again, these needs clearing out to accurately assess. Discussions, on progress, suggested capping. OB, (Young Skywalker) did well. Generator a little under ¼ full: no fuel on site.

Hour 12 (3365), Southend (2315), Kibbles 22 (6754), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7691

24th October Lost Bruce Bedford

27th October Doolin Coast Guard Station

Minister Hildegard Naughten, Eugene Cloonan (Director IRCG), Niall Ferns (VS&T), Dermot? (CUSM), Megan Grindrod (OiC), Jonathon Normoyle (DOiC), Mattie Shannon, Emmet McNamara, Ray Murphy Richard O’Shea.

Visit by HN to meet the newly established Unit. The trials experienced, fully understood. Nice couple of hours with the Minister, a seemingly genuine individual.

30th October St. Breckan’s Project

Solo

12:15. Cloud 60%: Wind SW, F4/6: Carnaun rain gauge 6mm: Visibility <25Nm: Ground wet. Couple of hours free of bank holiday coast guard duties. Went to observe river level and attempt estimate the volume sinking at F3a. River at 0.95m, (12:30), minor surface turbulence visible as river flowed over the submerged drystone wall. Used small lengths of branches, as floats, to measure flow through the bridge arch. Checked for any back up at sink, F3a; river volume disappearing effortlessly, particularly in the areas previous probed. Returned to the bridge to repeat flow timed measurements, a further five cycles; total ten. Conservative calculations, using the bridge arch dimensions, suggest that at midday today, F3a sink consumed 0.9 cumecs. The previously witnessed flood, that equaled the entry level of the overflow channel, was a conservative, extra height of 0.6m. Applying todays measurements the previous flood witnessed sinking in F3a, may have been as much as 4 cumecs; some two thirds that initially estimated. Need review flow and calculations as further gauges are installed.

1st November St. Breckan’s Project, (F3a).

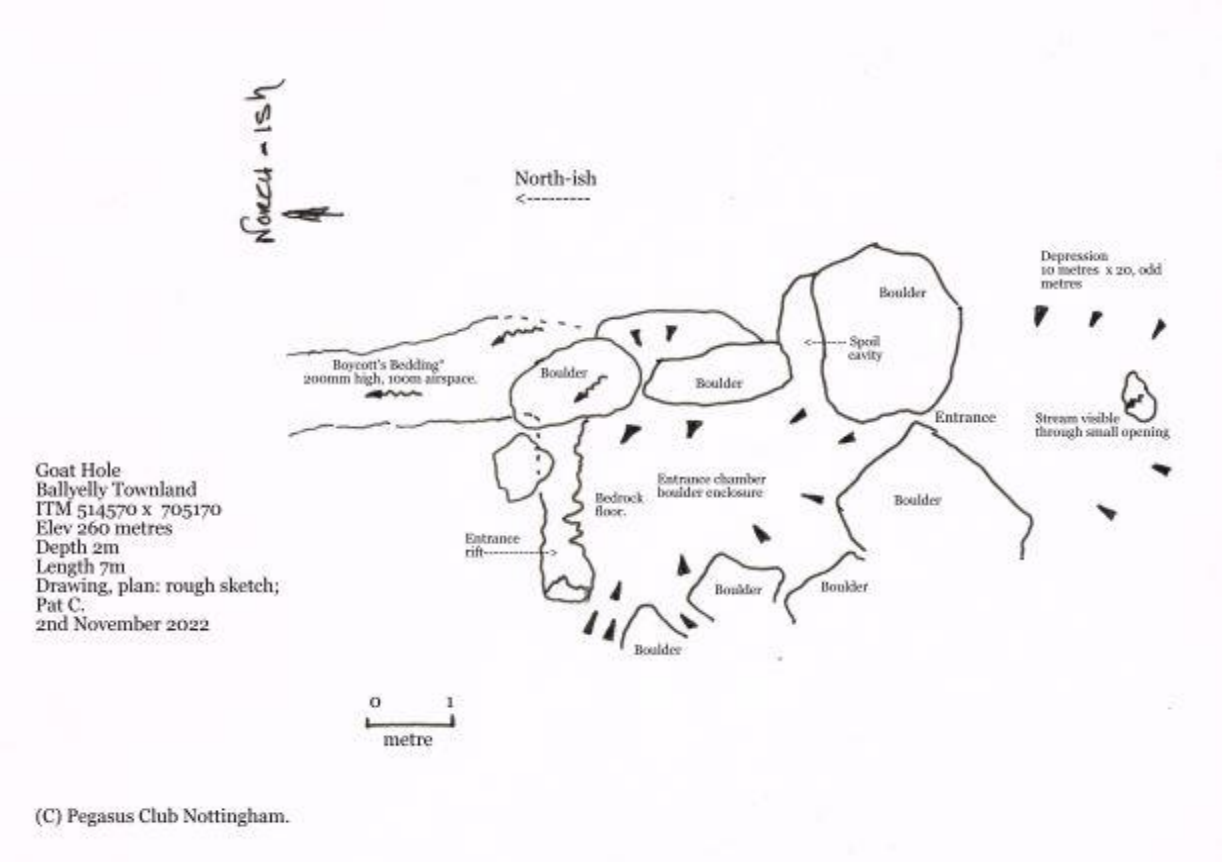
Solo, later Lenny Smith.

10:45. Cloud 99%: Wind SW, F4/5: Carnaun rain gauge 3mm, (October total, 295mm, {11.61 inches}) Visibility <20Nm: Ground very wet. The Plan: continue dig. En-route called to Ray Murphy, suspecting LS was crashing there following the SUICRO conference. Fed tea and cake, by RM’s chums. Arrived on site to find river level upstream of bridge level with summit of drystone wall; F3a sink under a metre and a half of water; river sinking, effortlessly, (11:10). The inhibited flow passing through the dry-stone wall created a difference between up and downstream of some six inches: (videoed). Having appeared successful at this video, attempted another; an overview of the site. Decided remain to observe possible fall in river level; only experienced showers and hailstorm. No reduction noted in river level during the following hour. LS arrived, explained the project, and showed him the sites; explained findings so far. Sent video to CC to put on the website.

2nd November Goat Hole

Cheg Chester

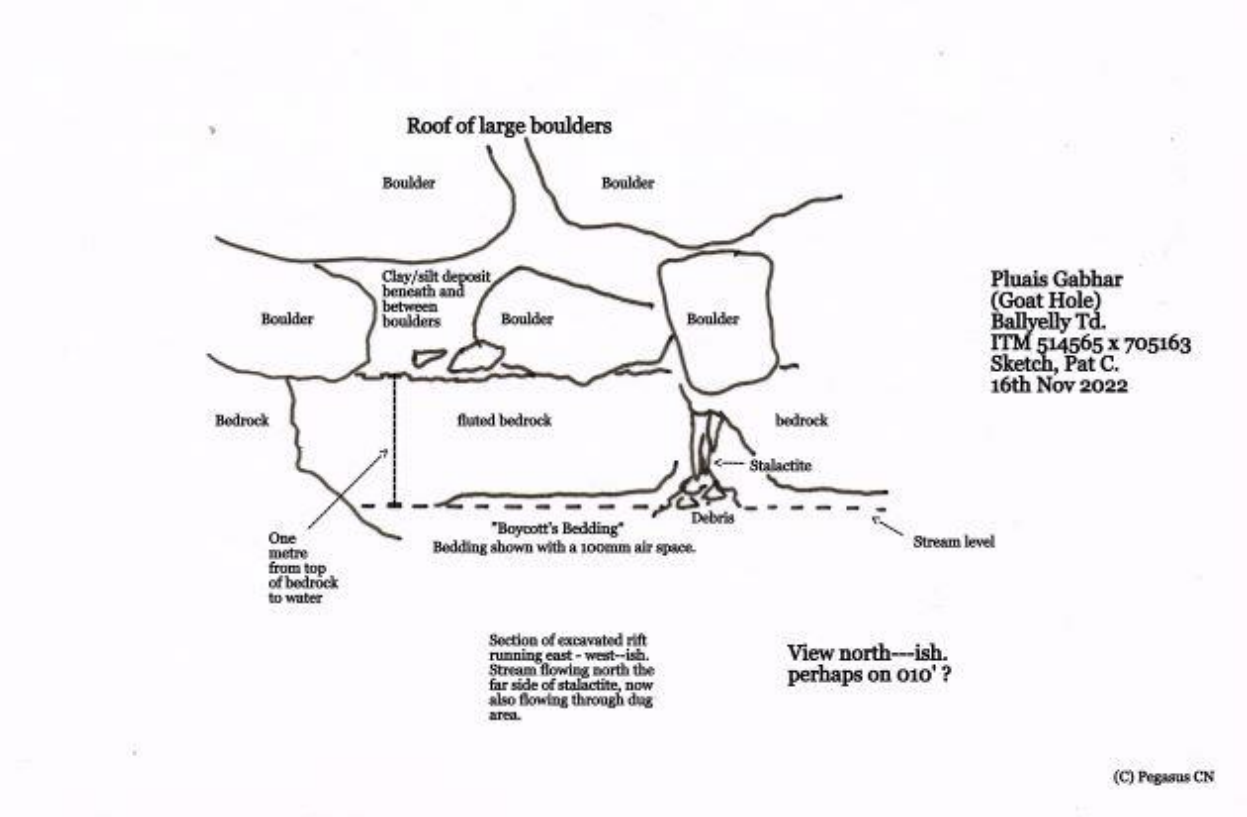
10:00. Cloud 100%, base 700ft: Wind S/SW, F9/10: Carnaun Rain Gauge 21mm: Heavy showers: Ground awash. The Plan: dig. En-route passed by the GAA pitch; river level surprisingly low, following the 21mm rainfall over the last twenty-four hours. Met CC at Faunarooska Cross. Took the Hilux, parked at the old cabin, near Poulballyelly. Once in the depression, enjoyed shelter from the ferocious gale. The stream volume, visible through the hole in the depression, twice that seen the 17th Oct. Dropped into the metre deep rift, began remove the submerged, compacted clay surrounding the three, large visible boulders. As the clays were removed the stream flowed around the digger; proving this route is the principle streamway. Digging beneath the water, worked toward the boulders by removing the floor, hoping to drop said boulders into the prepared hollow. Surprized, but delighted to find the floor increasing to over 400mm, (16 inches), below water level. Offering potential of a decent sized bedding; the fear of a solid floor forgotten. Slow work wriggling the jammed boulders free; spoil removed by CC, packing it neatly into the cavity near the entrance. Managed remove the smaller, (20kgs), of the three remaining boulders then a selection of submerged cobbles, neatly jamming the others; struggled to lift out the middle-sized boulder; 40Kgs. The visible, reachable edge of a possible bedding was probed with the nail bar; estimating it, at least, 450mm, (18 inches), deep. Continued remove the submerged clays. Thrilled when able to finally loosen and drag the largest boulder, (60Kgs), forward about a foot, (300mm); where it can be gadded, capped or snapped. Encouraged by the depth of the potential bedding, dug down the right, (south?) wall, delighted to find this too, widened. Fair knackered; before leaving inserted self along rift, unfortunately submerging right eye. Delighted to be looking down, along five/six metres of active streamway, heading, (northwards?), at right-angles to the entrance rift, with a 100mm air space, (4 inch). The bedding has a subtle, shallow arched roof; estimate the width of the arch at water level, at 0.8m. Depth of stream 100mm. Though obscured, believe the bedding to be at least a metre and a half wide, (five feet). The stream visible beyond the, (east?), end of the entrance rift curves, over two metres, rejoining the main flow some two metres along the stream bedding. The stream floor is gravel; noted the loud rumble seemed to come from behind; most likely the entrance stream, cascading through the boulders. A strong draught was present; understandable from the weather conditions and volume of stream flowing along……. “Boycott’s Bedding”. Returned home via GAA pitch, river level up, but not reached the base of the large fence post.



4th November St. Breckan's Project
Solo
12:00. Cloud 90%: Wind W, F3/4: Carnaun rain gauge 3mm: Showers: Visibility <30Nm: Ground wet. River level 0.75m. Arrived in unsettled weather, hoping start surveying the profile from the river bed invert up slope into the elevated overflow channel. Through clear water noted survey datum submerged, estimated at 0.5m; postponed that bit of the survey. Obvious evidence of recent flooding, noted at the small opening, the developing sink, situated between main sink, F3a, and F3b, it had taken a lot of flow. This small opening is almost equal in altitude to F3b; both some two metres above the main sink; almost level with the beginning of the overflow channel. Seriously considering digging it as an alternative entry; it may be a more accessible dig, during suspected, regular winter flooding. Installed an intermediate survey datum, (ID), the south end of the overflow channel, ITM 515133 x 698714. Ran a tape twenty metres downstream along the overflow channel, to where deep cut drainage channels begin to form. Set up the Leica unit six metres downstream from the ID. Established heights along the first twenty metres of accessible overflow channel; there is a fall, to the north, of twelve hundred millimetres, (1.2m). At twenty-one metres, deeper, narrow channels develop and bifurcate. Predicted weather for the next week, strong winds, heavy showers.

12th November Pluais Gabhar, aka Goat Hole
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
10:00. Cloud 100%, base 1000ft: Wind SE, F4/6: Carnaun rain gauge 15mm: Visibility <20Nm: Ground sodden. Many Turloughs appearing. The Plan: Dig. The remaining, obstructing boulder was drilled and swiftly dealt with; cleaving in two, each a struggle to lift up, out the confined rift. Popeye's drill bit appears blunted; previously unnoticed: the obvious culprit, the hard geology found in Considine's. Stream level, similar to previous visit, (2nd Nov); a good amount of flow

passing through the digging area; left undisturbed cloudy water cleared quickly. Rotated shifts to reduce fatigue and chilling; water depth averaging 0.3m: wet, cold work. CC had recovered two Mk 4 kibbles from Considine's, useful lifting the finer gravel. Digging followed the limestone "Rib" down below water level, several large boulders removed. What feels like another, may be the edge of a piece of protruding bedding. The left side of "Boycotts Bedding" was found to commence closer the point of entry to the rift, close the end of the "Rib". Most boulders were used to pave the approach to the entrance; the surface consisting soft, fine clays and silt. Depth of, excavated rift, from below water level, is 1.5 metres. A gained depth of one metre. Further digging will need drag gravels, etc. back to this "comfortable" digging position, from where kibbles can be removed to outside.



13th November Cullaun 5d, St. Breckan's Project
Solo
13:30. Cloud 100%: Wind SW, F3/5: Carnaun rain gauge 1mm: Visibility <25Nm: Ground sodden. The Plan: locate entrance to C5d. Previous attempt, maybe a decade back, with Tony Boycott ended in failure; recent deforestation had left a bewildering, destroyed landscape. Unable to ask permission to park at the nearby farm, parked at the forestry access gate, ITM519068 x 701465. Aerial imagery showed a track extending beyond the end of the forestry road, ITM 518754 x 700667, from which to work southeast to locate C5d; ITM. 518874 x 700524, (UBSS QGIS ref). Found the end of the forestry road enclosed with dense briar and trees; the track non-existent: abandoned plan. Visited F3a; the water level at 0.63m, the sink clearly exposed, suitable for photographs, took several.

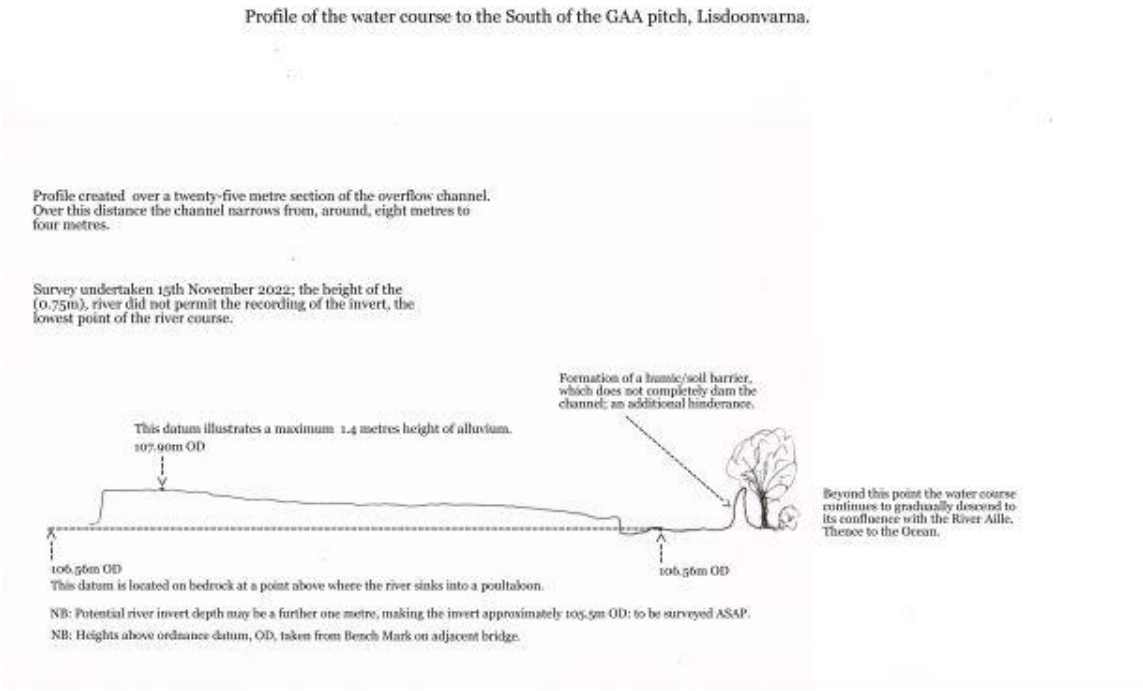
A proportion of the stream sinking on the left passes beneath the boulder to join that sinking on the right.The gash above indicates the rift alignment.

View of dry stone wall, and 0.63m of river depth to relate to volume sinking.

14th November Considine's Cave (South End), St. Breckan's Project, F3a.
Cheg Chester, Paul McGrath
13:00. Cloud 60%: Wind SW, F5/7: Carnaun rain gauge 1mm: Visibility <30Nm: Ground very wet: large stream. The Plan: examine further potential. PMcG and PC descended to closely examine the three areas; "Paul's Pot", South Rift and the "Scoop". The south rift shows limited potential other that pursuing the small, western passage. The base of the "Scoop" was cleared of some debris, voice connection to "Paul's Pot" clear, and close. The only possible site worth pushing is the bottom of "Paul's Pot"; its confines will be improved by attempting remove the corner of the rift, at its point of turning north. The merit is that the rift below is slowly widening. Discussion included allowing winter flooding to wash through and perhaps offer a clue to the most likely route. Meanwhile will press on with "Paul's Pot". CC Fuel. Generator a little under ¾ full: no fuel on site.
Headed over to the sink of F3a. River level 0.35m, 0.3m lower than yesterday; water sinking at the eastern sinks. Pulled out several boulders and many cobbles from the "upper sink area", among the bedrock (?), above the main sink. Whilst CC and PC worked away, PMcG poked at the eastern sinks. The rock, adjacent the sink is without doubt long since dumped there. Suggesting who once owned the land, when the bridge was built, likely requested the construction spoil used to "Fill the open poultaloon". There is no other explanation for such an occurrence of irregular, angular rocks, like these in such a natural stream course.
Hour 6 (3371), Southend (2321), Kibbles 0 (6754), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7691

15th November St. Breckan's Project; F3a, F3b
Solo
10:00. Cloud 40%; columns of unstable airmass: Wind SW, F4/5: Carnaun rain gauge 4mm: Visibility <30Nm: Ground wet: River level 0.75m, (10:30), +0.4m on yesterday. The Plan, extend survey of overflow channel down into the river invert. Set up the survey tripod adjacent opening of F3b. The Leica, green laser well suited for use in bright sunlight, when utilizing the receiver. Overnight, elevated river level prevented surveying its invert; settled for recording to the base of the steep drop off from the overflow channel, to water edge, (temporary datum left). Related all levels back to main sink datum, (106.56m OD; corrected +0.72m, 7th Sept 2022), also tying in the overflow channel datum. Took opportunity to record altitudes of the recently forming sink, channel entry, and depth of sink, F3b. Poked about the main sink, the river level covering the sink datum twenty millimetres. Pushing head into various gaps; noted greatest volume of noise emanating from below the southwest corner; below, and to the south of the suspended fence post; an area presently obscured by flood debris.

16th November St. Breckan's Project; F3a.
Solo
15:40. Cloud 70%: Wind SE, F4/5: Cold: Carnaun rain gauge 0mm: Visibility <30Nm: Ground wet: River level 0.1.5m, (15:55), -0.6m from yesterday, (0.75m). The Plan: clear the southwest area. Wrestled with branches and flood deposited vegetation; exposing a narrow gap. Spent an hour clearing the clay, rocks and minor amount of flood borne detritus; bottles, bags etc. Like the other areas probed this too takes water, the adjacent gap does seem to suggest this may be the place to dig; above minor flooding levels. The face above has slumped between these two gaps, in recent times. As vegetation has not colonized this bare area, likely it occurred this year.



Profile of silt deposits, downstream F3a.

19th November (1998) Lost PB Smith

28th November Considine's Cave (South End), St. Breckan's Project, F3, F3a, F3b.
CC, Lee Hollis, Mary Jenson
13:00. Cloud 5%: Wind WNW, F4: Carnaun rain gauge 9mm: Visibility <30Nm: Ground wet: large stream. The Plan: CC offered LH a guided tour; PC fairly useless owing to damaging the right hand yesterday. CC lifelining; LH descended to view the works; suitably impressed by the six years of effort.
Had previously arranged a time to meet EM: 14:30, for introduction to the landowner adjacent GF's land in Ballyhenna. Rang EM 14:10, meet confirmed; hooray.
Sped off to F3a with the team. River level 1.7m, (14:15); water flow over the overflow channel summit was 100mm below the overflow channel datum, installed to create the channel profile; a delightful bonus, saving a couple of hours surveying betwixt water depth gauge and the datum. Noted lazy eddies above the southwestern corner of the sink; recently poked at: presently at a depth of some two metres, lowest part of the sink being around three metres, (needs checking). F3b taking a good-sized stream with no sign of backing up.
Left the others, ran off to meet EM. Unfortunately, owner not at home; wandered GF's land, looking over the wall into yet another stream channel: EM observed dimensions of one channel had increased, (width and depth), since childhood. His further detailed comments suggest flow has increased to the sink at the end of this channel. Perhaps due to the adjacent sink becoming partially choked? Or an overall increase in flow, or maybe this sink is a "modern" opening which has formed fifty metres downstream of the sink passage located to the NNE? This area is fifteen hundred metres from the resurgence, F3. EM to contact MH to arrange a meet.
Hours 2 (3373), Southend (2323), Kibbles 0 (6754), Nets 0 (929), Total lifts 7691

29th November Souterrain CL004-001004, Court Tomb and Ringforts
Lee Hollis, Mary Jenson
Cloud 85%: Wind SE, F4/6: Carnaun rain gauge 0mm: Visibility <30Nm: Ground wet: The Plan: Offered show archaeological site in Doolin, prior to their departure tomorrow. In a bitter cold wind wandered the coastal area beyond Killilagh Church. The winter vegetation levels allowing clearer view of the sites. LH scampered underground to view the thousand-year-old construction. Chilled, adjourned to the Irish Arms; for an exchange of projects. Closest aerphort to LH is Castleguard, served by both Calgary and Vancouver: a delightful catchup. LH not here since 2003; last seen at Figg's funeral 2006.

1st December 1, 2022

	Millimetres			Millimetres
01 October 2022	5		01 November 2022	3
02 October 2022	0		02 November 2022	21
03 October 2022	0		03 November 2022	24
04 October 2022	27		04 November 2022	3
05 October 2022	24		05 November 2022	10
06 October 2022	4		06 November 2022	9
07 October 2022	12		07 November 2022	away
08 October 2022	16		08 November 2022	away
09 October 2022	9		09 November 2022	away
10 October 2022	11		10 November 2022	35
11 October 2022	0		11 November 2022	3
12 October 2022	11		12 November 2022	1
13 October 2022	0		13 November 2022	1
14 October 2022	2		14 November 2022	1
15 October 2022	27		15 November 2022	4
16 October 2022	19		16 November 2022	0
17 October 2022	14		17 November 2022	1
18 October 2022	0		18 November 2022	10
19 October 2022	11		19 November 2022	1
20 October 2022	9		20 November 2022	12
21 October 2022	3		21 November 2022	11
22 October 2022	16		22 November 2022	10
23 October 2022	29		23 November 2022	16
24 October 2022	4		24 November 2022	18
25 October 2022	3		25 November 2022	16
26 October 2022	6		26 November 2022	2
27 October 2022	3		27 November 2022	2
28 October 2022	7		28 November 2022	9
29 October 2022	5		29 November 2022	0
30 October 2022	6		30 November 2022	3
31 October 2022	12			
Total	**295**		**Total**	**226**

1st December Poll-an-ionian
John Browne
Asked to offer advice on cave water flow.

1st December Sink, Ballyhenna Td.
EM rang; he'd manage visit MH, prior to his imminent two week absence, explaining PC's passion to examine the sink, located behind her house, in conjunction with investigating the flooding of the GAA pitch. Permission provisionally granted. Adding, if a red car is parked there, to come over and chat: delighted: much obliged to EM.

3rd December Sink, Ballyhenna Td, and F3a; St. Breckan's Project.
Maire Howley, Leona Howley
Cloud 100%: Wind E, F2: Ground damp: Carnane rain gauge 1mm: No stream present. Called to establish contact; met Leona and Maire, delightful, helpful, knowledgeable. A huge amount of data on the immediate area freely given. Surprized at the number of poultaloons which have appeared in adjacent fields, each requiring backfilling. Excessive floods have, on occasion reached up to the back yard, flooding the garage. Enjoyed an intensive "get to know you"- "who do you know" interview; very convivial, a really nice family. Taken on a tour of the large sink and adjacent, elevated drinking well location; the only drinking water supply in the area until the 1970s. Curious to have a poultaloon next to a well, in such an elevated spot. Leona showed three sinks in the pear shaped depression. MH will call to notify of the next flood; so as to listen to the sounds described; as water levels recede, which happens in but a few hours, also see if one sink is where most of the river disappears. Maximum depth at this sink is some six/seven metres; needs checking. Permissions given to roam the land and poke about.

5th December F3a, St. Breckan's Project.
Cheg Chester
Cloud 60%: Wind NNE, F4; cold: Visibility >30Nm: Carnane Gauge 0mm: Ground damp: River Gauge, 0m. The Plan: commence digging. The "bouldery" area in front the limestone "face" does not appear natural; this substantial deposit of angular rocks appears dumped. Their shape and form does not exhibit any evidence of water flow, unlike others exposed later, closer to the sink. The water/river channel has steep sides of soil, bound by tough, established vegetation, from resurgence to F3; over two hundred metres of channel. Murt McInerney, (MM), suggested this "rubble" may have come from the construction of the bridge, c. 1840, estimated as many bridges were built around then. There are two distinct deposits of rubble, at the sink and some fifteen metres upstream, just before the beginning of the flood channel. Started to clear boulders from the stream bed, four metres back from the "face", to accommodate a stable slope, as the dig possibly deepens. Boulders up to 70 kilos were moved; deposited to create a "weir" to collect any flood debris. Steady progress in cold conditions exposed bedrock at the sink, CC followed this around to the south side of the sink area, clearing out any choked orifices, some plastic bags removed. Further struggling cleared a decent area infront the face, and more bedrock? This bedrock is estimated at 0.9m below the present survey datum. Head scratching: work concluded after a poke in the bedding on the south side of the sink. Curious. Some three tonne of stone moved during two hours. Met MM, en-route to the motor, spoke of accessing the well, some four hundred metres north; ideally lower a camera, and perhaps climb it: will speak with the owner.

View west of F3a sink, 5th December.

View west of river bed, note angular stone.

View, southwest corner of sink; 13:00.

View southwest corner of sink; 15:00.

View east, of boulder wier; 15:00.

7th December F3a, St. Breckan's Project.
Cheg Chester
Cloud 30%: Wind N, F2; cold: Visibility >30Nm: Carnane Gauge 0mm: Ground damp: River Gauge, 0m. The Plan: probe further. The number of dig sites within this small area is ridiculous. CC continued to clear into the low bedding, passing along the south side of the sink. PC aligned the joint behind the rock 'face' exposed by CC, with one of several narrow gulleys in the upper river bank. Began clearing small boulders and clays; dumped spoil into a previously dug pocket. After a metre progress, encountered 'solid' water worn rock on the east side, holes among the clay fill ahead, evidence of water flow. Further poking about, and alignment of other rock faces optimistically suggests this debris filled rift is about eighteen inches wide. Above this area the bank slope approaches vertical; shoring may become necessary. MM arrived regaling the team with data and theories, offering guide the team to other sites. 4 Hours.

11th December S3 and Scailp na Struthar, (S4), Ballyryan Td.
Solo
LW 12:40: Cloudless: Wind N, F2: Temp, 0°C. Ground frozen. The Plan: inspect status of dig S4. En-route visited Poulsallagh, the meandering outer passage remains intact, the intermediate shaft open, likewise the main shaft. Arrived S3, 12:45, five minutes after LW. Sea state slight. No waves breaking. Noted the tiny outflow; no rain for nine days. After brief consideration stripped off and slid into the bedding; didn't hang about. At the rear of the bedding felt underwater for an opening. Nothing enterable. Could not reach far end of bedding, as airspace only three inches, and the penetrating cold. Swiftly dressed; headed for S4. Previously dug site to -3m, as a narrow shaft, between boulders, below which, the top of a bedding was clearly visible, as was deposits of silt. Potentially this site could access passage, with access like Otter Hole. Primary issue, westerly storms blast cobbles across four hundred metres of karst to refill the rift opening.

Resurgence S3, view north, Low Water 12:40, photo taken at 12:45.

Resurgence S3, view northeast showing bedding passage; 12:48

Resurgence S3, View east of bedding, 12:50, pool sixteen inches deep.

Resurgence S3, view north, showing outflow; 12:53; 11 December 2022.

18th December Doolin
For the last ten days have experienced sub-zero temperatures; night and day. Extensive ice coating the roads, every road in a minimum of poor conditon. Grit eventually applied to national routes; local roads left to thaw. The twelve millimetres of rain last night froze. This morning many cars in ditches, between Ennistymon, Ballyvaghan, Lisdoonvarna and Doolin. The place like a disaster zone.

21st December The Longest Night.

24th December Poulnagollom
Solo
Cloud 95%: Wind S, F4/6: Visibility >20Nm: Ground sodden: Large stream. The Plan: exercise. Finally, after nine days of iced roadways following rain fall with sub-zero temperatures, (-10°C). And five days of Montezuma's Revenge, able to venture abroad, far further than the ten second dash to the exhausted WC. Not a sinner seen between home and the cave. Deployed ladder; abseiled the main entrance. Immensely enjoyable wandering down to main junction; first cascade huge. A little short on time, meandered back to surface to meet up with CC, Aileen and Pauline in McGann's, nice. Walking back to the motor, passing McDermott's, called over by Stephen McDermott for some Christmas drinks….very, very nice.

27th December Pluais Gabhar, aka Goat Hole
Solo
Cloud 100%, base 700ft: Wind NW, F4/6: Visibility <10Nm: Ground sodden. The Plan: observe state of the stream inside the dig. Needing be a brief visit; PMC in bed, still in the throes of some sort of bug, along with injuries from the fall on the ice, assisting another pussy cat. Much of the approach up through the gulleys, awash. Drenched long before reaching the cave. Stream visible through the hole in the depression appeared larger than previously noted. No sign of flow across the mud surface inside the entrance. This hole likely burst through the thin soil cover, from a significant flood event, no other reason for its appearance. In the dug rift, the top edge of the stream bedding was just above stream water level, already soaked slide along to better hear the rumble, airspace along the bedding barely an inch; the rumble, again, seemingly more from upstream, beneath the cave entrance area. Could not determine the source of the draught in the confined area. So, flow is significantly more than previous. Squelched back to the Hilux.

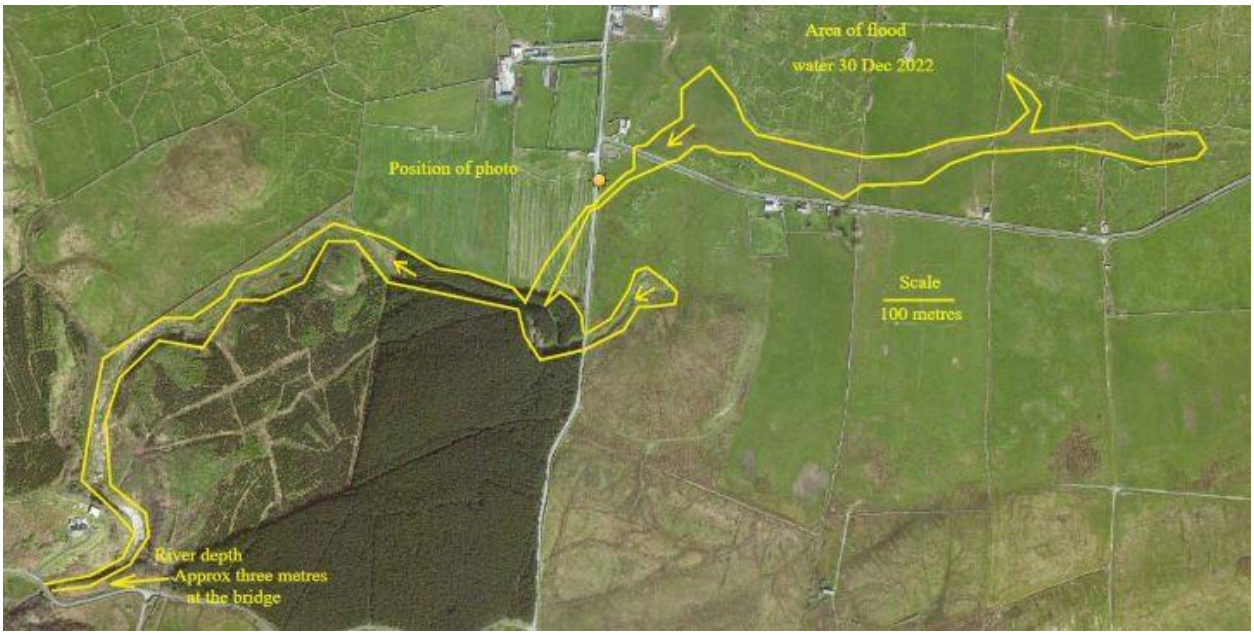
29th December F3a, St. Breckan's Project.
Solo
Cloud 100%: Wind NNW, F4: Visibility <20Nm: Ground sodden. The plan, nip over to check the river level. Though still rough, Pauline all but recovered from Flu strain "A". Spoke with MM who had seen the recent flood; water level today pouring over into the overflow channel. No sign of surface current, following previously digging at the rift.

29th December Poll-an-Ionian
John Browne Cian ?
16:30. Helped JB install hand rail just inside the air lock door.

30th December Cullaun II
Paul McGrath
Cloud 90%: Wind W, F6/8: Hail shower: Carnane rain gauge 38mm: Visibility <20Nm: Ground sodden. En-route visited F3a; St Breckan's Project. F3a river level two feet below the crown of the bridge arch. Adjacent woodland severely flooded; GAA pitch flooded from incoming stream passing across the road, (depth 0.3m), fed from a stream issuing through the holes constructed in the dry stone wall; as accurately described by Murt McInerney. At Ballygastell, near Maire

Howley's place, the flood significant. At Owentoberlea Bridge, it's arch submerged; no surface evidence of water sinking into Owentoberlea Sink.

View north east from road Photo Paul McGrath

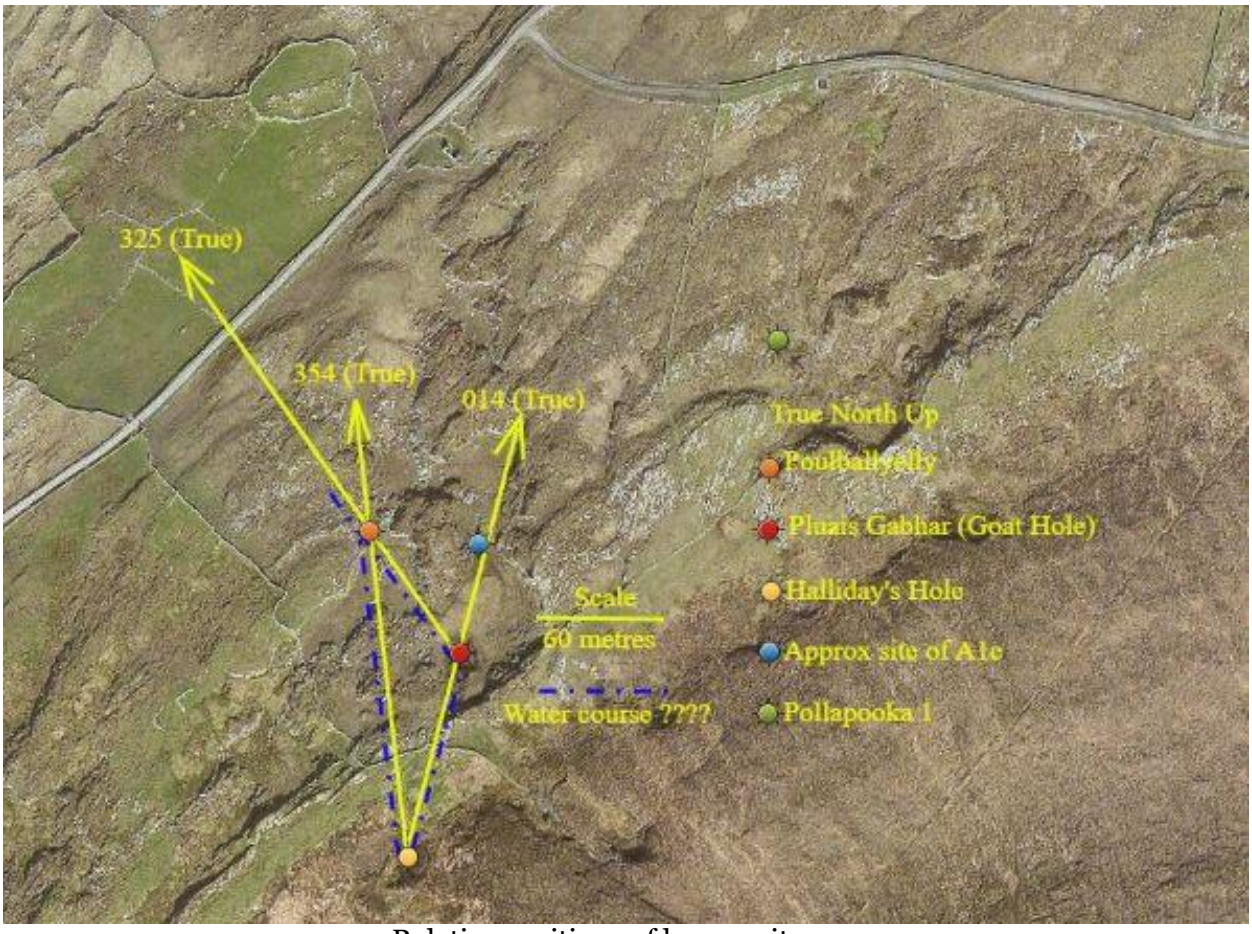


Extent of localized flood 10:30, 30th December 2022.

At Cullaun II, found a large stream entering; inside stream depth covered a welly's toe cap. The dull roar from the Cascades, audible long way up the passage; an impressive sight, wide and powerful. Stream current strong, its volume and strength further augmented by many small inlets, but particularly the large stream issuing from Year Passage. The duck beneath the

boulders very wet; climbed over the ruckle. Pleasant wander down to the climb just before the pitch; closer approach deemed unwise. The narrow, smooth chute leading to the top of the pitch carried the full volume of stream. Stream depth throughout averaged just above PC's knee, with regular soakings of the Family Jewels. Discussing exit routes, PMcG, wanted improve fitness, opting exit the streamway, rather than the stream free upper series. The choice provided an excellent demonstration of true leg strength; the entire streamway, to the cascades requiring real effort; particularly in the narrow rifts, most cannot be traversed with ease. In places legs unable to press against the flow; somewhat weary, chose to pass the duck squeeze, rather than chance tired, wobbly legs on the elevated traverse. Found a minor amount of air space beneath the "Bloody Guts". Swift change and straight into the Irish Arms.

31st December Halliday's Hole - Pluais Gabhar
Solo
Last trip of the Year. Cloud 100%: Wind SE, F3/4: Visibility <20Nm: Ground sodden. The Plan: observe streams. Am temped believe the substantial stream sinking into Halliday's Hole, (275m OD), and the Pluais Gabhar stream, (≈260m) are one and the same. If so, to undertake digging the inviting, but wet, bedding depends upon if the stream flows into Pollballyelly; tracing required. The area has potential, not least the bottom of Pollapooka.



Relative positions of known sites

Questions.

1) Does Halliday's stream flow direct to Pollballyelly, 150 metres to the Northwest?
2) Does Halliday's stream flow the 100 metres, first to Pluais Gabhar, then a further 70 metres to Poulballyelly?
3) Are Pluais Gabhar and Hallidays Hole streams completely separate water courses?
4) Is Pollballyelly fed by an entirely separate stream course?
5) Does the mislaid sink A1e play a part? Estimated as being along the 014 degree line from Halliday's passing through Pluais Gabhar?
6) Does Pollapooka play a part further downstream, yet draining from the northeast?

To name but a few.....

Rainfall,, Carnaun, October to December

	Temp	Millimetres		Temp	Millimetres		Temp	Millimetr
01 October 2022		5	01 November 2022		3	01 December 2022		3
02 October 2022		0	02 November 2022		21	02 December 2022		1
03 October 2022		0	03 November 2022		24	03 December 2022		0
04 October 2022		27	04 November 2022		3	04 December 2022		0
05 October 2022		24	05 November 2022		10	05 December 2022		0
06 October 2022		4	06 November 2022		9	06 December 2022		0
07 October 2022		12	07 November 2022		away	07 December 2022		0
08 October 2022		16	08 November 2022		away	08 December 2022	Minus 5	0
09 October 2022		9	09 November 2022		away	09 December 2022	Minus 5	0
10 October 2022		11	10 November 2022		35	10 December 2022	Minus 4	0
11 October 2022		0	11 November 2022		3	11 December 2022	Minus 4	0
12 October 2022		11	12 November 2022		1	12 December 2022	Minus 4	0
13 October 2022		0	13 November 2022		1	13 December 2022	Minus 4	0
14 October 2022		2	14 November 2022		1	14 December 2022	Minus 6	0
15 October 2022		27	15 November 2022		4	15 December 2022	Minus 4	0
16 October 2022		19	16 November 2022		0	16 December 2022	Minus 5	0
17 October 2022		14	17 November 2022		1	17 December 2022	Minus 6	16
18 October 2022		0	18 November 2022		10	18 December 2022		15
19 October 2022		11	19 November 2022		1	19 December 2022		9
20 October 2022		9	20 November 2022		12	20 December 2022		1
21 October 2022		3	21 November 2022		11	21 December 2022		4
22 October 2022		16	22 November 2022		10	22 December 2022		3
23 October 2022		29	23 November 2022		16	23 December 2022		15
24 October 2022		4	24 November 2022		18	24 December 2022		6
25 October 2022		3	25 November 2022		16	25 December 2022		7
26 October 2022		6	26 November 2022		2	26 December 2022		11
27 October 2022		3	27 November 2022		2	27 December 2022		6
28 October 2022		7	28 November 2022		9	28 December 2022		14
29 October 2022		5	29 November 2022		0	29 December 2022		4
30 October 2022		6	30 November 2022		3	30 December 2022		38
31 October 2022		12				31 December 2022		7
Total		**295**	**Total**		**226**	**Total**		**160**
						October		**295**
						November		**226**
			Over previous 24 Hrs			**December**		**160**
			Recorded at 10:01			**Total mm for three months**		**681**
						Total as Inches		**26.81**

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost