

FEBRUARY 2020

This is a short and sort of uneventful trip report, as the weather was foul, and dangerous.

FRIDAY 14/2

I left home at 1615 and headed to pick up Ronan in Ballincollig, we then headed up to Limerick through the 1980s^{1/}. Angela had also put me on a mission to pick up a Spanish lad studying in UL. Having got Miguel we went to SuperMacs and then after what felt like an hour, we got on the road to Clare.

We were the second group to arrive, behind Clara's group. Bit by bit we all arrived with a special appearance from Matthieu, who flew in from Brussels.

What ensued was a night of relatively heavy partying, whilst planning tomorrow's caves. Of course we were only looking for the driest caves on account of Storm Denis.

SATURDAY 15/2

I rose relatively early with a headache. By the time we started to get things moving the heavens had opened (9mm of rain in 3 hours) and all caving was to be abandoned. Except Matthieu, Aodhán, Shane, Thomas, and Octavian who decided to go and find Cullaun V and go to the top of the ladder pitch^{2/}.

I went sightseeing with a car full of people, we saw the Father Ted house, went to Doolin, then to Fanore and up to the caves, finally heading to Vaughan's in Kilfenora for a stew. It was a grand afternoon, but if I'm honest I wish I'd gone caving with the lads.

SUNDAY 16/2

Today we got up relatively early. There was more discussion on where we ought to go caving. Anglea, Joe, Matthieu, and I went to Poll na gColm with the express intention to stay high above the streamway. We had expected far more water in the streamway than we saw. In fact the levels in the streamway looked normal. Perhaps the streamway drains quite quickly, but without actual data I can't speculate.

1/ Or in other words every small town between Limerick and Mitchelstown, because the Irish government forgot to build the M20 all the way to Cork.

2/ Matthieu had decided to make use of the document that I penned about four years ago, probably the first person to use it.

As we began our trip to surface we encountered another DCU group, consisting of Aodhán, JP, Thomas, Octavian, and Elise. I'm glad there was at least one Fresher on the trip!