

AUGUST 2020

This is a short trip report, mainly as there was no actual caving.

SATURDAY 22/8

Adrian, Angela and I met up in Lehinch and joined Adam, Emily, and John who were planning on doing work on their re-survey of Poll na gColm. We were unprepared for caving really, and so decided to go looking for caves that we knew were in the book but we didn't know where they were. We first headed to find Poll Ballynahown and Poll Omega.

Following the OSi map and the new Clare book we were able to find the general area. The road was in poor condition and I bottomed out my car for a second. I parked at the corral at the end of the road. After some wandering around we believe we have a location for Poll Omega. It appears to be a very overgrown entrance, perhaps better during winter months. Poll Ballynahown eluded us on the day but after some work in Therion and Google Earth, I think I could find it. That is assuming the surface co-ordinates fixed to the survey are accurate.

Later in the afternoon we headed over to Gragan West. Angela had previously gone looking for this cave with a few others, but had no success. I had done some prior research on this with the Clare book, and various mapping platforms (Apple Maps proved to have the best imagery of the area). Amazingly following the directions in the new book, and looking at the satellite imagery, I lead us to two entrances of the cave, namely the Main Entrance and Joyce's Hole.

I can't wait to get back to there for a proper trip. I hurt my knee in the bog looking for the entrances. The next day I did a lot of limping, and thankfully Adrian drove us around sight-seeing.