

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

I R E L A N D 1956:-

It is proposed to visit an area in the North-West of Eire in County Leitrim. Some exploration of caves has been done the Y.R.C. and Sandhurst in Sligo and Fermanagh. In Leitrim, between these two areas, similar geological conditions exist. A preliminary visit in October 1955 lead to the discovery of eight pot-holes, as yet quite unexplored. Several of them take quite large streams and the surface featurrs in some cases suggest that the stream passages may be passable at the bottom of the pots. The depths of the pots have been estimated at 20 - 150 feet and all are shæred drops.

Though the geological structure of some of the mountains in the area is similar to that of Slieve Elva, the streams, after leaving the shale caps, continue on the surface of the upper lime-stone, cutting deep gorges and often plunging as waterfalls to the base of the middle limestone, locally known as "calp". The reasons for this difference in behaviour is not known.

The obvious centre to work from is Manor Hamilton, but the hotel accommodation does not seem to be suitable. At Dromahair, about ten miles away, is the Abbey Hotel, pleasantly situated with garden and fresh-water swimming in the river or the pool. A provisional agreement with the owner has been made for part of July 1956 at 5½ guineas per week. This is much below the usual charge for the high season and depends on a firm booking being made by the end of May and on the students sharing rooms. Motor transport will in any case be needed to reach the caves so the extra distance from Manor Hamilton does not seem to matter much. Near the hotel, a lake drains in a cave with possibility of exploration.

The geological structure of the area is complicated and there is much faulting. The mapping of the area has not been revised for many years. No pattern of underground drainage has been established but the famous Mendip Dog has again been reported as visiting this area on his travels. The country is mountainous and roads relatively scarce. The roads are more or less confined to the valleys but access to the mountains is possible fer by selecting peat reads. The O.S. ½ inch to 1 mile, Sheet 7, Sligo covers the major area to be investigated.

Proposed Dates. 5th. - 20th, July 1956.

If you are interested please write to Prof. E.K. Tratman. Additional information will only be sent to those who request it.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 1955:-

There will be the usual New Year's Eve party at the Burrington H.Q. on Saturday, 31st. December. Will those members intending to come please write to me so that numbers can be gauged. It will be of great help if they would also indicate what provisions, liquid and otherwise, they hope to bring.

D.A.S. Robertson.
(Hon. Sec.)