

# CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

**NAME OF SITE**

The Tomeens

Other names used for site

**TOWNLAND(S)**

Milltown, Kiltanon

**NEAREST TOWN**

Tulla

**SIX INCH MAP NUMBER**

27, 35

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE**

146530 180980 = R465 810

**1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER**

58      1/2 inch Sheet No. 17

**Outline Site Description**

Unroofed and partially roofed active river cave.

**Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

River cave developed within Waulsortian limestone.

**Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The Tomeens consists of a linear river cave on part of the Tomeens River consisting of roofed, partially roofed and unroofed sections. There are 10 caves in total, each separated by surface collapses (Self 1983). The amount of surface collapse is not surprising owing to the fact that there is rarely more than 2-3m between the ground and the roof in areas where the cave has a width of 10-15m. Also of interest are a number of [stream oxbows](#) and [dry oxbows](#), where the part of the river has been abandoned in favour of a more direct route. Many factors including surface collapse, tree roots forcing open joints in the limestone and humic acids (derived from rotting vegetation) dissolving the limestone will see the cave eventually becoming an open canyon with the river downcutting its limestone bed (Self 1993). The site was originally a significant tourist attraction and drew lavish praise in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries e.g. Lloyd (1986).

**Site Importance**

The site is of National importance and is proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 1 Karst theme and the IGH 8 Lower Carboniferous theme of the GSI's IGH Programme.

**Management/promotion issues**

No known threats at time of writing. The most convenient access to the Tomeens is from a farmhouse on the Milltown side of the river. Access with the landowners permission is through the farm along an unmade track.



## The Tomeens

