

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Shandon Railway Cutting Cave		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst		
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballynamuck East		
NEAREST TOWN	Dungarvan		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 31		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	225017 94328		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	82	1/2 inch Sheet No.	22

Outline Site Description

A cave system truncated by a railway cutting, cut into a man-made cliff in a pasture field.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The cave is probably a Holocene (post-glacial) cave developed in Carboniferous Limestone, but it is undated.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

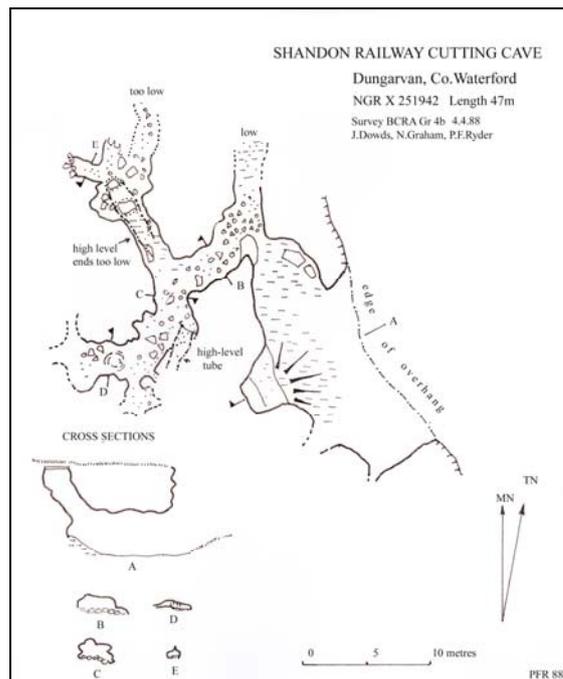
A modest cave is apparent in a cliff of limestone rock, at Shandon Railway Cutting Cave, which was once the Dungarvan to Lismore railway line. The cave is largely an overhang where the cutting bisected a cave passage of reasonable dimensions. Lower level passages extend from the northwestern end of the overhang cave, with a total length of 47m. An aven at the back of the main overhang originally extended to the surface but has been closed over with timbers by a landowner.

Site Importance

Although interesting, this is one of the lower importance cave sites in Waterford, but is the best remaining of the recorded caves in the important Shandon area and worthy of County Geological Site status for that reason alone.

Management/promotion issues

The cave is on private farmland and of no great extent. It does not suit general promotion or access.





Shandon Railway Cutting Cave, viewed from the southeast.



Calcite flowstone on wall of cave exposed in back of the cave overhang.

