

SEVEN STREAMS, CO. CLARE. TOWNLAND TEESKAGH

Colin Bunce

This site had been previously dug by C.S.G. who had some nasty experiences with moving rocks. It was re-examined in early 1988 by the Burren Crawlers and 75 metres of cave has been explored.

The Seven Streams rise from small caves on Slieve na Glasha, drop down a waterfall and then sink at various points depending on the water level. In flood conditions the stream continues and sinks in a large depression. On the southern edge of this is a collapse area. The entrance is in the centre of this collapse.

The cave seems to be developed on 3 levels. Squeezing down through boulders reaches the stream level (if flowing), crawling between large rocks reaches a rift where it is possible to stand. The rift also has some interesting anti-gravity rocks. Under these the route continues in a low streamway in solid(?) rock. This section can sump in flood. The route then enters an inclined bedding chamber heading south. Small holes in the floor connect to a lower bedding level. Staying up on the right hand side a larger hole is reached dropping 3 metres to the lower level. The route continues in a series of rifts developed between these 2 levels. The upper level continues as a series of muddy chambers. When flowing the stream occupies a wide bedding plane at the base of the rifts. Following the rifts a small chamber is reached with extensive breakdown. Originally a route was followed down a series of very narrow rifts and gravel chokes to a low streamway, on a third level, ending in tight sumps in both directions. Due to its very narrow nature and frequent infilling with stream gravel this route was abandoned in favour of trying to follow the rifts from the small chamber into the breakdown. Some progress was made before 2 large rocks moved to block the route,

Although only 75 metres long, this cave is very interesting. It is the only cave associated with an active stream sink in the Eastern Burren. It is located on a synclinal axis, and has been dye traced to the Fergus River. The survey is shown below.

