

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Cork-Mallow Road Cut		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH10 Devonian		
TOWNLAND(S)	Kilmona, Ballymartin		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Blarney		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	62		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	559745E 581325N (centre of site)		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	80	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	21
GIS CODE	CK038		

Outline Site Description

Approximately 500 m-long road cut set back from eastern side N20 Cork-Mallow road.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock is formed by fine-grained sandstone of the Middle Devonian Gortanamill Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The main Cork-Mallow N20 road cuts across the Middle to Upper Devonian succession in County Cork. While the Upper Devonian succession, represented by the Ballytrasna Formation, is very well exposed at numerous localities in East Cork, this site is one of the few examples of the Middle Devonian succession in this part of the county. The Gortanamill Formation here comprises thinly-bedded green sandstone. The rocks are coarser grained than those of the succeeding Ballytrasna Formation and represent relatively coarse sediments derived from a northern landmass that were deposited in high-energy rivers.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This site contains good exposures of the Middle Devonian Gortanamill Formation, which is not otherwise well exposed in East Cork.

Management/promotion issues

The site is located along the heavily trafficked N20 Cork-Mallow road. A grassy margin backed by thick gorse and brambles separates the 3 m to 4 m high rock exposure from the road and prevents direct access to the rock face. These exposures were created over 30 years ago when the existing road was developed. There is now considerable overgrowth of the face and conifers threaten to obscure the view of them completely, especially at the northern end of the site. This site is likely to be of interest mainly to professional geologists and further promotion is not warranted.



View south along Cork-Mallow road of southern end of site, with rock face on left.



Northern end of site, view of rock face of thinly-bedded sandstone.



Northern end of site showing growth of conifers that threaten to obscure view.

