

KILDARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Slate Quarries		
Other names used for site			
TOWNLAND(S)	Slate Quarries		
NEAREST TOWN	Blessington		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	20, 25		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	299000 218000 = N 99 18		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	56	1/2 inch Sheet No.	16

Outline Site Description

A series of quarries on the hillside.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Silurian slate formation (Slate Quarries Formation)

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Townland of Slate Quarries in east Kildare, near Blessington is notable for its Slate Quarries. These slates can be seen in a range of quarries. Kearney Seal Quarries is the most northerly, Stresslite operate in the middle quarry and Frank Murphy Ltd has the lower quarry and the workings to the south of the road through the site. Although the original small quarries were probably for poor quality roofing slates, modern extraction is concentrated in three quarries run by different companies. Their output is for aggregate and concrete products, no longer for slates, which nowadays are generally imported.

Site Importance

The link between the name of the Townland, and the history of use of a natural earth resource is a strong reason for marking this area as a County Geological Site, and a good place to actually see the rocks well exposed.

Management/promotion issues

The proposal to include these working quarries as a CGS in no way is intended to limit the operations, but simply to mark their value as a place to see local geology well exposed, and to make the powerful connection between geology and people's everyday lives.



Left: Aggregate quarry within the Slate Quarries townland.
Right: Concrete blocks being manufactured, made from crushed rock aggregate in Frank Murphy Ltd Slate Quarries.

Slate Quarries

