

# KILDARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Kilbrook Spring</b>		
Other names used for site	Enfield Spring, Innfield Spring		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Kilbrook		
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	Enfield		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	4		
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	281460 242200 = N 8146 4220		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	49	<b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b>	16

## Outline Site Description

Warm spring within disused gravel pits.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Warm spring uncovered during excavation of Quaternary gravels

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

A warm spring which has recorded the highest temperature (24.7° in 1982) and was one of the highest mean temperatures (around 22°) in any Irish warm spring in either the Leinster or the Munster warm spring provinces. Boreholes drilled in the vicinity indicate that the warm water is derived from deep below the surface and makes its way to the surface by a fault. Most springs are derived from near surface aquifers. The spring was first exposed in about 1890 when gravels were being excavated for the nearby railway line.

## Site Importance

The site is superficially uninspiring in a disused gravel pit, but is potentially still of scientific importance. The landowner, Mr Caldwell, reported that he had moved the gravel heaps around the spring to reduce the very high drops for safety reasons. It is presumed that this was done since Fahy (1975) undertook his ecological study. It is unclear whether high temperatures are still a feature of the spring.

## Management/promotion issues

*The landowner, Mr Caldwell who lives at the adjacent farm, is absolutely averse to any publicity or promotion of the site due to insurance concerns and previous bad experience with visitors.* The site should not be promoted but probably remains scientifically important and should be made a County Geological Site to protect the spring. This would enable future monitoring of temperature or other study to compare with older records.



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