

KILKENNY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Archersgrove Quarry		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME:	IGH 8, 15 (Lower Carboniferous, Economic Geology)		
TOWNLAND(S)	Archersgrove		
NEAREST TOWN	Kilkenny		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	19		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	251900 154800 = S 519 548		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	67	1/2 inch Sheet No.	19

Outline Site Description

An original quarry where the Kilkenny Black Marble was excavated.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous very dark grey limestone of the Butlersgrove Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Situated on the outskirts of Kilkenny Town, behind a petrol station, are the remaining faces of a disused quarry showing Lower Carboniferous limestone. The exposed faces display widely spaced horizontal bedding and vertical jointing, which made the limestone ideal for dimension stone quarrying in the past. Some fossils can be observed on the visible rock faces, mainly solitary corals and occasional brachiopods.

Site Importance

This disused quarry is thought to be the first location where the Kilkenny Black Marble was quarried in Ireland. The nearby River Nore was used to transport the large rough-hewn blocks from the quarry by means of floats and/or barges. This site is included as a County Geological Site as it is of historic and geological significance.

Management/promotion issues

This site can be divided into 2 areas: to the west of the R700 behind a petrol station; and to the east of the R700 in a large depression between the road and the River Nore. The former is easily accessed and can be observed from the road. This part of the quarry has almost completely been backfilled with the exception of a number of exposed faces, all overgrown with vegetation, and localised littering in some areas. A small amount of maintenance would dramatically change the aesthetic nature of this site. The second half of the site is accessed through a locked gate along the River Nore walkway. It displays an easily observed large vertical quarry face. This is potentially a hazardous area due to rock fall and the presence of old quarry machinery strewn over the site. These two areas are on private property and are unsuitable for general promotion without appropriate arrangements agreed with the landowner(s).



Left: Heavily overgrown section of quarry face observed by the roadside (west side of R700)
Right: Abandoned quarry machinery and vegetation occupy the quarry floor (east side of R700)

Archersgrove Quarry

