

KILKENNY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Barrettstown Quarry
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH 8 Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Barrettstown
NEAREST TOWN	Knocktopher
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Kilkenny 31
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	251720 138888
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	67 1/2 inch Sheet No. 19

Outline Site Description

This site is a disused quarry. It was used by Kilkenny County Council until the 1940/50's as a source of roadmaking materials. It is presently used by the County Council to store road aggregate supplies for local repairs.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks are limestones of Carboniferous age (approximately 330 million years). They belong to the Ballysteen Limestone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The rock is Ballysteen Limestone Formation, which is a very widespread unit across southern counties of Ireland, from the Lower Carboniferous, or Viséan. It is well exposed here and in relatively stable rock faces. It provides a relatively accessible section for geological examination and study.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

The site is of County Geological Site importance and is scientifically useful as a well exposed representative section of Carboniferous limestone in Kilkenny, where it is otherwise very poorly exposed. Granny Quarry in the south of the county also exposes the Ballysteen Limestone Formation but is much overgrown and degraded. Further comparisons by experts in Carboniferous limestone geology may indicate this site is of national importance as representative of otherwise very poorly exposed stratigraphy in the southeast of Ireland.

Management/promotion issues

This quarry is owned by Kilkenny County Council and is currently used as a storage area for road chippings. It is unsuitable for general public visits.



A panorama view of the quarry from the road gate.



The main quarry face.



The quarry through the road gate.