

KERRY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Gneevgullia
Other names used for site	Carraundulkeen Quarry Spring
IGH THEME	IGH16 Hydrogeology
TOWNLAND(S)	Tooreennamault
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Rathmore (County Cork)
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	60
ITM CO-ORDINATES	511430E 598450N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	79
GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	21
GIS CODE	KY050

Outline Site Description

A warm, freshwater spring situated in a disused limestone quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock is Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian, 359-323 million years old) limestone.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Carraundulkeen Quarry Spring is situated around 4 km northwest of Gneevgullia at a relatively high elevation of c. 200 m. The Lower Carboniferous limestone around the site comprises well sorted, pale-grey calcarenites of Visean age (c. 340 million years old). Dolomites have also been noted in the area. The limestone is in contact with younger Namurian (Pennsylvanian) shales along an east-west trending fault. The fault is considered a probable channel way for the rising warm spring water.

The spring is classified as a warm spring, with mean annual recorded temperatures of 16.5 °C, and the temperature rarely drops below 15 °C. The spring has the second highest recorded mean temperature in Munster, after the warm springs at Mallow (c. 19.5 °C). These temperatures are significantly higher than average groundwater temperatures in Ireland, which are in the order of 9 °C to 11.5 °C. Carraundulkeen Quarry Spring has an average discharge rate of 350 litres/min. The spring water has a relatively high concentration of magnesium (Mg), similar to the water at St. Bridget's Well, Newcastle West, County Limerick, where partially dolomitised limestones are understood to be an influencing factor.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The County Geological Site is a fine example of a warm spring and is one of several warm springs situated in the region of east Kerry, west Limerick and north Cork.

Management/promotion issues

The site is of significance for hydrogeological research and monitoring. Much of the old quarry floor is partially flooded and is thus inaccessible. The part of the quarry nearest to the road is also used to store aggregate.



Spring situated at north end of Carraundulkeen quarry, Gneevgullia.



Lime kiln at quarry.



Disused quarry winch.



Carraundulkeen Quarry viewed looking north.

