

LIMERICK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Kilmeedy
Other names used for site	Kilmeedy Council Quarry, Kilmeedy Quarry
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous; IGH3 Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology
TOWNLAND(S)	Kilmeedy
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Kilmeedy
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	37
ITM CO-ORDINATES	538210E 630180N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 65	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 17
GIS CODE LK018	

Outline Site Description

Two small quarries alongside the R519 Kilmeedy to Ballykevin road.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Bedrock at the site is Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous) Ballyvergin Shale, of the Lower Limestone Shale succession (as presented as such on the GSI 1:100,000 Sheet 17 map).

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Ballyvergin Shale Formation is a grey, non-calcareous mudstone (shale) with thin interlaminated siltstone layers. The formation is part of the Lower Limestone Shale (thickness 73m) unit (Limerick Province), and in this is grouped with the Mellon House Formation (oldest) and Ringmoylan Shale Formation (middle), with the Ballyvergin rocks the youngest. Borehole data from borehole LI-68-10 at Pallaskenry revealed a thickness of 5.4m for the Ballyvergin Shale Formation.

Whilst the unit represents an important mark horizon in many boreholes in Limerick, it rarely crops out at the surface. The formation contains reworked a distinctive microfaunal and microfloral assemblages.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The relatively undeformed nature of the exposures of Ballyvergin Shale at this quarry, together with the known palymorph faunal assemblage, are such that this is an important County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The quarry faces are very overgrown with gorse, bramble and willow vegetation. In the absence of further quarrying activity or quarry clearance management, the features will become increasingly challenging to access and observe. The site is not deemed suitable for public promotion as the features themselves are not of dramatic interest. This site is not to be confused with the adjacent active quarry operated by W.M. McAuliffe Ltd.



Overview of the southern, small quarry at Kilmeedy.



Ballyvergin Formation mudstones exposed at Kilmeedy.

