

LIMERICK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Linfield Quarry
Other names used for site	Carrigcollum
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Linfield
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Nicker
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	24
ITM CO-ORDINATES	575080E 646640N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 65	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 18
GIS CODE LK023	

Outline Site Description

Small, partly overgrown abandoned quarry on working farm.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Ankaramitic basalt lava of the Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous) Knockseefin Volcanic Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Linfield Quarry is an excellent exposure of ankaramitic basalt of the Knockseefin Volcanic Formation. It is of interest chiefly for the spectacular development of columnar basalt that is present across the entire c. 200m length of the exposed quarry face. In particular, the southern end of the quarry displays a radial arrangement of small and large columns around a core. Radial or irregular jointing in basalt is common worldwide but this occurrence is believed to be unique in Ireland.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This site is the best exposure of columnar jointing in the Limerick Volcanics. It also contains an apparently unique example of radial columnar jointing in basalt. It is recommended for designation as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The quarry is long abandoned. While the quarry face is generally unvegetated the floor is overgrown. The site is not within any designated area but does not appear to be under any development threat. The site is part of a working farm and was in use as a cattle pen during the site visit for this audit. Although the basalt columns would potentially be of interest to a wider audience, the site is unsuitable for further promotion in its current form.



Northern end of quarry, general view, with near-vertical columnar jointing



Southern end of quarry, general view.



Near-vertical columnar jointing, northern end.



Radiating columnar jointing at southern end of quarry

