

LIMERICK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	N18 Road Cut Ballykeeffe
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballykeeffe
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Limerick
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	13
ITM CO-ORDINATES	554950E 654930N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 65	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 17
GIS CODE LK027	

Outline Site Description

Road cut excavated through limestone bedrock on the N18 route east of the Limerick Tunnel.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock is Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous) Viséan limestone, and is around 300 million years old.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The limestone visible in the road cut exposures along this stretch of the N18 Limerick Southern Ring Road near Junction 2 provides an insight into the strata and structure of the Carboniferous bedrock in this region of Limerick City. The road cut is around 200m long, with horizontal beds exposed along both the north and south sides of the road.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This road cut section is a good representative exposure for the Carboniferous limestone that underlies most of Limerick City.

Management/promotion issues

The exposures are on road cuttings alongside a busy dual carriageway, and are therefore not suitable for general promotion in terms of direct access. However, the cuttings into the limestone bedrock provide hundreds of daily passing motorists with a rare ‘window’ into the limestone strata that underlies much of Limerick City. Some localised management to keep the rock faces clear of vegetation would preserve this open ‘window’ into the limestone foundation in this part of Limerick. The minor road bridge overlooking road cut provides a good view of the exposed strata.



Limestone strata exposed on north side of N18 route, east of the bridge.



Limestone strata exposed on south side of N18 route, east of the bridge.

