

TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

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| NAME OF SITE | Ballyoughter Bridge | | |
| Other names used for site | | | |
| IGH THEME | IGH3 Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeotology | | |
| TOWNLAND(S) | Kilinleigh | | |
| NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE | Drumbane | | |
| SIX INCH MAP NUMBER | 40, 46 | | |
| ITM CO-ORDINATES | 603845E 656468N | | |
| 1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER | 66 | GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. | 18 |

Outline Site Description

This site is a stream section, with small bedrock outcrops and exposures along the banks of two streams at their confluence. This is at a small picnic site to the east of Drumbane village, which itself is approximately 8 kilometres west-southwest of Thurles.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The streams cut through Lower Carboniferous (359-323 Ma) limestone rocks, of the Ballysteen Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The rocks cropping out in the stream sections are termed argillaceous wackestones by geologists, meaning that they are dominated by mud and support carbonate material. These rocks have many colonies of the fossil *Michelinia*, which are corals with a honeycombed appearance. Other fossils of corals, bryozoa (aquatic invertebrates that look like fronds of seaweed), and other trace fossil markings have all been noted in the river bed slabs near the picnic spot. These fossils are typical of the Carboniferous Period.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The site is of County Geological Site importance. Despite relatively poor exposure and some overgrown vegetation, the site is recommended as a CGS as there is much potential geological heritage interest especially if vegetation was removed.

Management/promotion issues

The site is overgrown with vegetation in the majority, and only a small amount of rock is visible. However a diligent fossil collector could potentially add to the small known collections housed in the National Museum of Ireland, Geological Survey Ireland, the Natural History Museum in London and other institutions.



The picnic spot at Ballyoughter Bridge.



The stream confluence with outcropping rock either side of the westernmost channel (right).



Fossil corals in outcrop.



A bed of *micelina* and bryozoan fossils.

