

TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Knockordan Hill
Other names used for site	Knockordan Quarry
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Knockordan
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Tipperary
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	66
ITM CO-ORDINATES	581312E 633230n (centre of site)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 66	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 18

Outline Site Description

A small knoll has numerous exposures of limestone on and around it and a disused quarry on the eastern flank.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks are of Carboniferous limestone. The bulk of the knoll is composed of Waulsortian Limestone but the quarry and the southeastern part show the overlying and younger Knockordan Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The bulk of the knoll is composed of Waulsortian Limestone which was originally formed as a carbonate mud mound on the sea floor, in up to several hundred metres of water depth. The knoll may reflect some of the original relief of the carbonate mud mound or bank. In the quarry, steeply dipping flank beds are seen which were the edge of the mound or 'reef' as it is sometimes informally referred to by exploration geologists. The small quarry into the western end of the knoll also shows steeply dipping beds on the perimeter of the knoll, indicating that it displays original sea floor relief.

The quarry and the southeastern part of the site show the overlying and younger Knockordan Formation. These are thin bedded limestones with a lot of chert near the base and both crinoid fossils and a lot of mud further up the succession. This site is the type section where the Knockordan Formation is defined. On the northern side of the knoll there are two very small 'caves', which are probably from genuine solution of the limestone rock by groundwater.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The site is a good representative of the widespread Waulsortian carbonate mudbanks, with flank facies, and is the type section for a local formation, making it worthy of County Geological Site status.

Management/promotion issues

The site is on private farmland and there is no access without landowner permission.



A view into the quarry on the eastern side of Knockordan Hill.



A view into the small quarry on the western side of Knockordan Hill.



The western side of Knockordan Hill.



The small solutional 'caves' on north side.



A view of summit from the quarry.



Dipping 'reef' flank beds in the quarry.

