

WICKLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Kilmacurra Quarry
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH11 Igneous Intrusions
TOWNLAND(S)	Kilmacurra West
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Rathdrum
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	30
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	724682E 688471N (centre of quarry)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	62 GSI Bedrock 1:100,000 Sheet No. 16

Outline Site Description

Kilmacurra Quarry is a large, partly flooded quarry developed in a diorite intrusion. It is now abandoned.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock is diorite, part of the Caledonian Carrigmore Diorite suite of intrusions in east Wicklow. The suite has been dated at 410 Ma, slightly older than the Leinster Granite. Wallrocks are slates of the Ordovician Kilmacree Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Carrigmore Diorite suite comprises a series of igneous intrusions of intermediate composition, i.e. a chemical and mineralogical composition intermediate between granite and gabbro. Diorite intrusions occur widely in Ireland but the Carrigmore suite is unusual for the size and internal complexity of the intrusions. Diorite is a relatively hard rock, suitable for aggregate and concrete manufacture, and several quarries have been developed in the Carrigmore suite, including those at nearby Ballinclare and Parnell Quarry near Rathdrum.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Diorite is an important minor igneous rock type in Wicklow. The Kilmacurra Quarry provides good exposure on quarry faces and in loose blocks. The other quarries developed in the Carrigmore suite are apparently still operational so this site provides an opportunity to examine the diorite in situ.

Management/promotion issues

The quarry is abandoned and partly flooded, with deep water and high vertical quarry faces. It is of interest mainly to geologists and is not suitable for promotion to the general public.



View southwards of western side of quarry, showing vertical faces and flooded quarry floor. Upper faces to right are readily accessible.



Medium-grained grey-green diorite, typical of rock exposed in the quarry.



