

WICKLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Rocky Valley		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH 2 Precambrian to Devonian Palaeontology, IGH7 Quaternary		
TOWNLAND(S)	Carrigoona Commons West		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE:	Kilmacanogue		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	7		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	723232E 714666N (centre of valley)		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	56	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO:	16

Outline Site Description

This site comprises very small, disused quarries on side of the Rocky Valley.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Cambrian age Bray Group slates.

Main Geological Interest

Small shallow roadside quarries in the Rocky Valley have yielded samples, which when processed have a range of microfossils in them. These microfossils are planktonic acritarchs and are very useful for dating older rock sequences and provide the best evidence to confirm the Cambrian age for the Bray Group rocks found at Bray Head, Sugar Loaf, Rocky Valley and throughout much of eastern Wicklow. A few trace fossils, called *Oldhamia*, have also been found, correlating with the Bray Head site where these are best known from.

The valley was a meltwater channel at the end of the last ice Age, and is dry today.

Site Importance - County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

These microfossil data provide the most reliable and biostratigraphically precise age so far obtained for the Bray Group in southeast Ireland.

Management/promotion issues

The site is entirely within pNHA 001769 The Great Sugar Loaf. It is rough grazing and vegetated with scrub and gorse.



The Rocky Valley, looking towards the Little Sugar Loaf.



One of the two small quarries in the Rocky Valley which yielded Cambrian microfossils.



