

KILKENNY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Bennettsbridge Quarry		
Other names used for site	Roadstone Kilkenny Quarry		
IGH THEME:	IGH8 (Lower Carboniferous)		
TOWNLAND(S)	Holdenstown		
NEAREST TOWN	Bennettsbridge		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	24		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	255597 151504 = S 56 51		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	67	1/2 inch Sheet No.	19

Outline Site Description

A working quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Butlersgrove Formation, dolomitized limestones of Lower Carboniferous (Viséan) age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Found within a Roadstone quarry, just north of Bennettsbridge are well exposed beds of Lower Carboniferous dolomitic limestone. Dolomite is formed when the calcite (Ca) in the limestone (calcium carbonate - CaCO_3) is replaced by magnesium (Mg) through a process called dolomitization. These rocks can be identified by their pinkish colouration (from the mineral dolomite) and often have appearance like marble.

Site Importance

The site at Bennettsbridge Quarry is a very good example of dolomitized limestone in the Kilkenny area, worthy of County Geological Site status.

Management/promotion issues

This is a large working quarry operated by Roadstone and as such is a hazardous environment. Therefore this site should not be promoted without appropriate arrangements being made with Roadstone.



Left: Exposed face of dolomitized limestone characterised by its pinkish colouration, with minor landslips observed in the foreground.
Right: Dolomite and calcite crystals seen in the limestone of the Butlersgrove Formation.

Bennettsbridge Quarry

