

KILKENNY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Kiltorcan New Quarry
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME:	IGH 2, 10 (Precambrian to Devonian Palaeontology, Devonian)
TOWNLAND(S)	Kiltorcan
NEAREST TOWN	Ballyhale
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	32
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	255400 134870 = S 5540 3487
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	67 1/2 inch Sheet No. 19

Outline Site Description

Shallow linear quarry excavation alongside a track.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Latest (youngest) Devonian sandstones of the Kiltorcan Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The New Quarry at Kiltorcan provides important additional data on the age, depositional environment and general geological setting of the world famous Kiltorcan flora from the Kiltorcan Old Quarry. Both it and the track connecting it to the Council Quarry provide sections through the youngest part of the Devonian sequence. The quarry shows a long section of rock which can be tied to the Old Quarry and hence constrain the age of the succession in both sites by microfossil assemblages. The geological evidence from the site suggests that plant material was laid down in a near swamp environment, whilst at Kiltorcan Old Quarry it was deposited on a sand bar in a river.

Site Importance

Kiltorcan New Quarry is proposed as an important County Geological Site to complement the more important Kiltorcan Old Quarry which will be designated as an NHA.

Management/promotion issues

This site is privately owned and is linked to the nearby golf course. As it is in private ownership it is unsuitable for general promotion, and the potential visible geological interest is limited for a non specialist audience, since the fossil data is partly from microfossils which can not be found without laboratory processing. Although a bedding layer rich in fossil plants has been recorded, plant material is not commonly found.



Above: A view of the Kiltorcan New Quarry looking south.

Kiltorcan New Quarry

