

KILDARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Moorhill
Other names used for site	
TOWNLAND(S)	Kilcullen
NEAREST TOWN	Brannockstown
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	29
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	288630 207770 = N 89 08
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	55 1/2 inch Sheet No. 16

Outline Site Description

A dry glacial spillway.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Quaternary (Pleistocene) glacial till cutting into Silurian greywackes.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This 1.5km long, north-south trending glacial spillway has a broad gently sloping base with steep heavily wooded sides. A disused railway line has taken the natural path of this spillway. Outcrops of inverted greywackes reported to contain rare sedimentary features, are exposed in places along the path of the old railway line. High levels of vegetation means that access to these outcrops are difficult. The formation of this channel itself is due to flowing meltwater from a glacially dammed lake during the Quaternary.

Site Importance

This is one of a range of such glacial spillways abundant in West Wicklow but represents a good example in Kildare and should be listed as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The land is privately owned (owners unknown). Access to the site seems to be locally accepted although landowners were not located. The path of the old railway line has produced a good clear pathway for the southern half of the channel but fallen trees and overgrown vegetation hinders access to the north. Not suitable for general promotion without permission from the landowner and appropriate arrangements organised.



Left: Greywacke outcrop exposed.
Right: Old railway line running along glacial spillway.

Moorhill

