

KILKENNY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Threecastles Quarry		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME:	IGH 15 (Economic Geology)		
TOWNLAND(S)	Threecastles		
NEAREST TOWN	Kilkenny		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	14		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	245800 160800 = S 458 608		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	60	1/2 inch Sheet No.	18

Outline Site Description

A working dimension stone quarry producing Kilkenny Black Marble.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Clogrenan Formation limestone of Lower Carboniferous (Viséan) age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The quarry at Threecastles exposes very large sections of Lower Carboniferous fossiliferous limestone, which was formed about 330 million years ago. The beds in this quarry dip shallowly to the south.

Site Importance

This is an excellent example of a working dimension stone quarry for building purposes (as opposed to aggregates for concrete blocks etc). It produces the well known Kilkenny Black Marble, a stone widely used in Ireland for construction, both in the past and present day. The McKeon Stone owned quarry has a number of processing machines on site that can produce a variety of stone pieces for the construction industry. As well as its economic importance, this is a good location to observe Lower Carboniferous fossiliferous limestone. For these reasons this site is recommended as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

This is a very well managed dimension stone quarry but as such is a potentially dangerous environment and any promotion of the site should only be by arrangement with McKeon Stone Ltd.



Left: Excellent exposures of Lower Carboniferous Limestone seen along the walls of Threecastles Quarry.
Right: Canvas bags containing rough blocks for wall building. These are one of the products produced on site at Threecastles.

Threecastles Quarry

