

LAOIS - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Killeshin Glen		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH3 Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology, IGH9 Upper Carboniferous to Permian		
TOWNLAND(S)	Coorlaghan, Keeloge		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Carlow		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	32, 37		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	666200E 676990N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	61	GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	19

Outline Site Description

A long section of rocks exposed in a deep gorge-like valley.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks exposed in Killeshin Glen are Namurian and Westphalian in age, comprising the Killeshin Siltstone Formation, followed upwards by the Bregaun Flagstone Formation, the Moyadd Coal Formation and the Clay Gall Sandstone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

At Killeshin Glen a near continuous stream section through the Namurian and Westphalian rocks of the Carboniferous is found. The Killeshin Siltstone Formation has two marine bands in it. The *Reticuloceras gracile* Marine Band is found in the stream behind the old church and graveyard in the village of Killeshin. The other is in the main section above the reservoir (which has an interesting history as a water supply for Carlow Town from 1894 -1987). The section upstream from the reservoir park includes the *Gastrioceras cancellatum* Marine Band in the upper part of the Killeshin Siltstone Formation, the Bregaun Flagstone Formation, the No. 1 Coal at the base of the Moyadd Coal Formation and the Clay Gall Sandstone Formation. Within the Moyadd Coal Formation another Marine Band can be found, long known as the Fleck Rock, which has flecks of black shale in a siltstone. Access to all of this section is extremely difficult without appropriate 'expedition' attitude.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA

This section is an important reference section for Namurian and Westphalian strata in the Leinster Coalfield, and is likely to be promoted as a geological NHA once suitable review of sites nationally is undertaken.

Management/promotion issues

The site is on forestry and private farmland and not suitable for general promotion. It is also very difficult to access due to deep vegetation even in summer when water levels are low in the stream. The stream is mostly within a deep and almost inaccessible gorge. The study of such a section is the protracted work of a highly committed geologist and is not undertaken on a casual basis. It remains as a good reference section for future study or re-appraisal with new tools or data, but it is not an inviting section.



The deep ravine of Killeshin Glen is hidden when viewed from the plateau of the Castlecomer Coalfield, from the west.



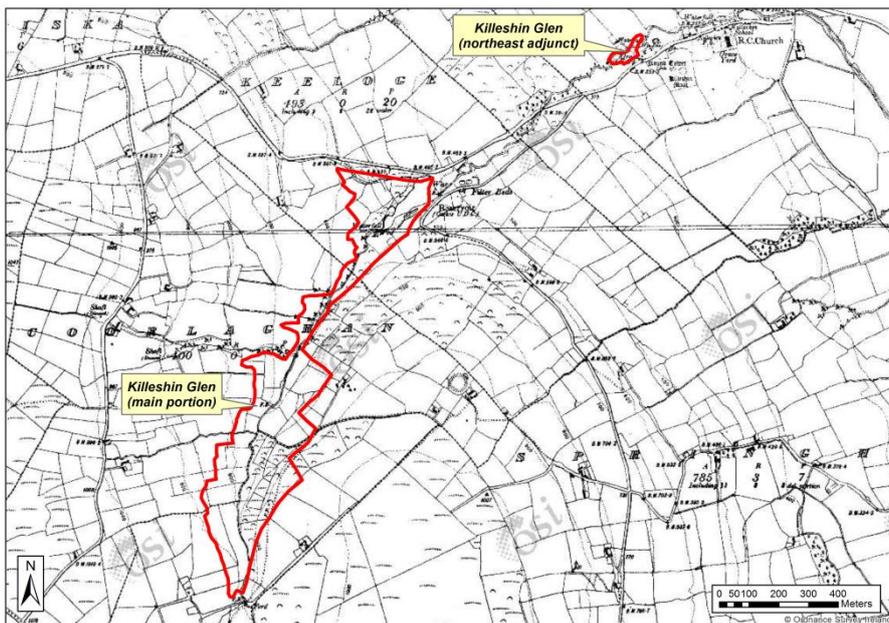
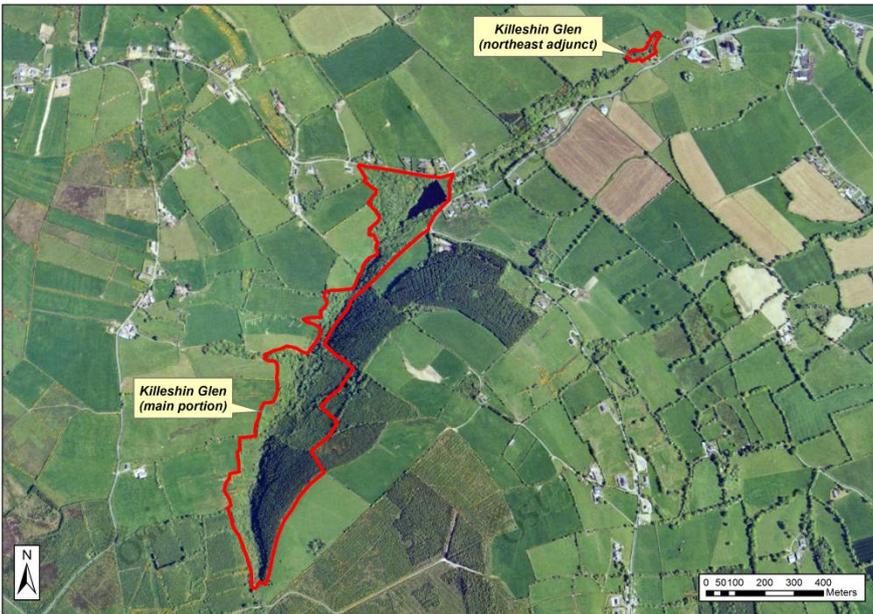
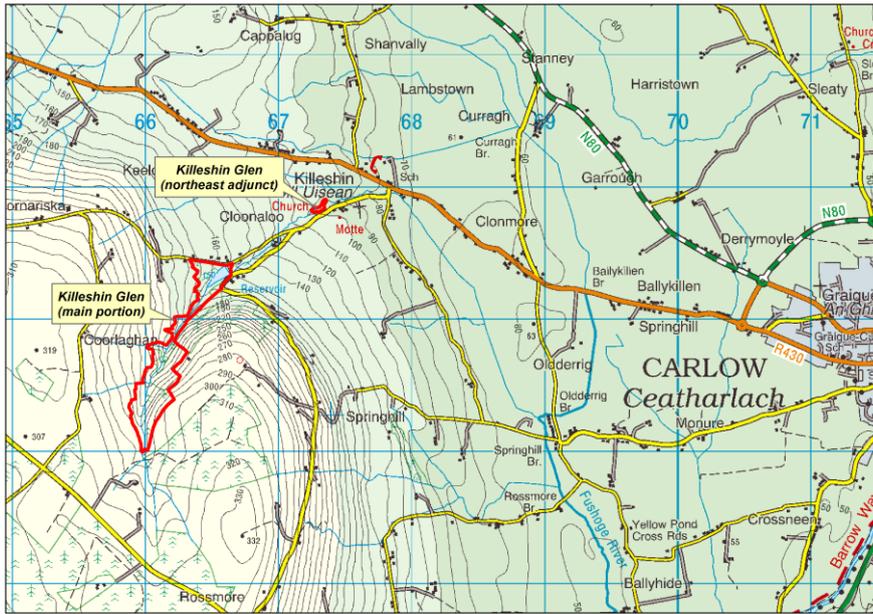
Most of the section is in a gorge.

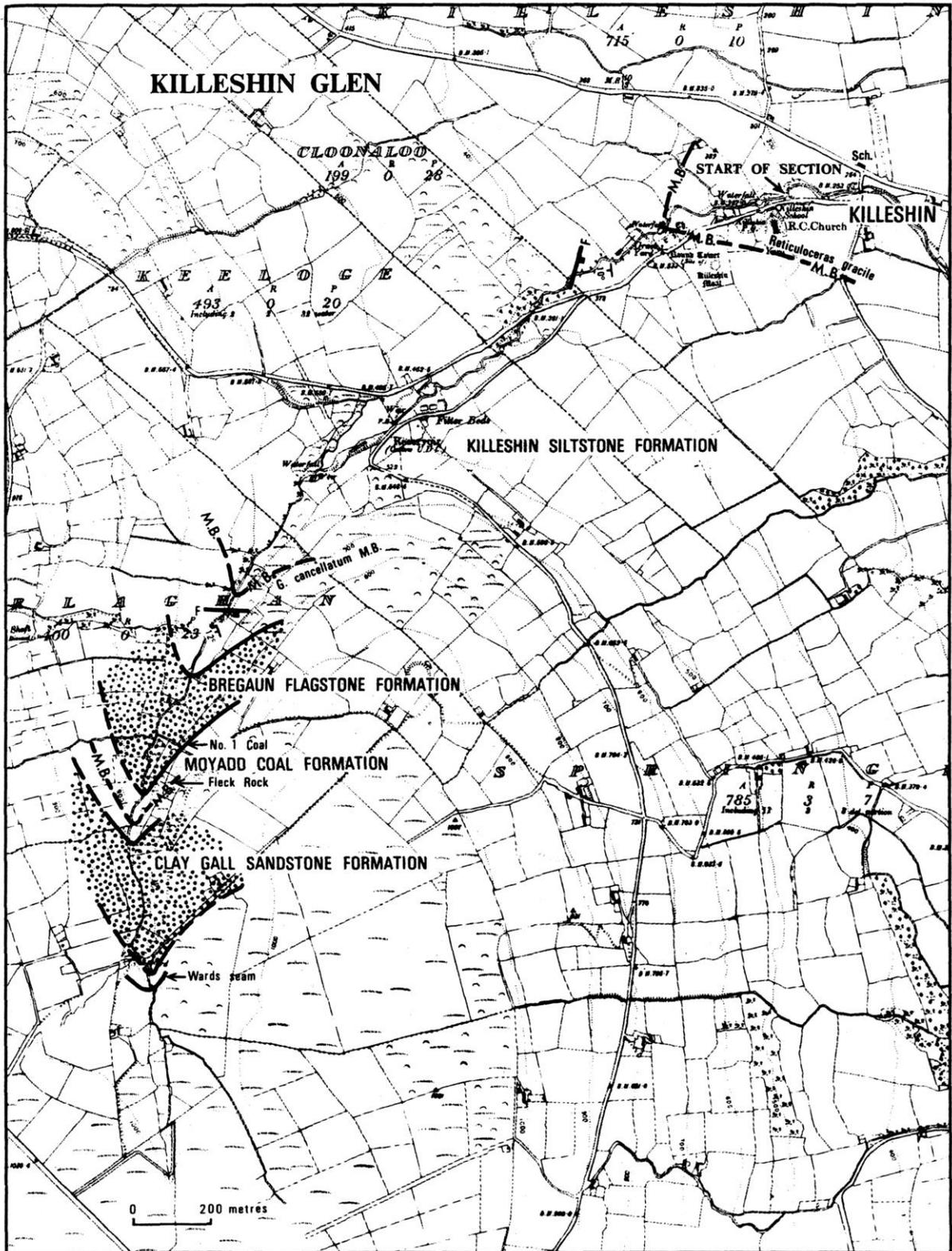


Waterfalls often occur where harder bands of rock create a barrier to erosion.



The Killeshin Glen section is in the ravine below the plantation forestry.





Map from Feehan, J. 2013. *The Geology of Laois and Offaly*. Offaly County Council.