CORK CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	**Beaumont Quarry**
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	**IGH 1 Karst, IGH 8 Lower Carboniferous, IGH 15 Economic Geology**
TOWNLAND(S)	
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	**In Cork City**
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	**74-4**
ITM CO-ORDINATES	**570277E 571049N**
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	**87 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO: 25**

Outline Site Description
A disused limestone quarry, which has naturally revegetated and is now an ecologically important calcareous grassland. Limestone cliff faces remain exposed, and a small series of caves have been mapped.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
The bedrock quarried from this site was predominantly limestone from the Little Island Formation, with some Cork Red Marble also present, both from the Dinantian of the Carboniferous.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
The 120-acre Beaumont Quarry, in use from sometime between 1830 and 1850, ceased operations in the 1960s. Though it has since revegetated, the Lower Carboniferous limestone quarry faces remain accessible, and a small but interesting system of karst caves, as described by Oldham, 1981, and Murphy, 1973, have several entrances at the cliff faces. Fossil shells and crinoid stems have been identified in some of the cave wall passages; though these are inaccessible to the general public, poorly weathered crinoids are also visible in the rock in several parts of the quarry. The site was extensively quarried for its high-quality, easily worked building stone, known as 'Beaumont dove'. This Little Island Formation rock is thought to have been used in the construction of Cork City landmarks including St Fin Barre's Cathedral (1865-79), The Courthouse on Washington Street (1835), and the Berwick Fountain.

Site Importance - County Geological Site
The quarry provides an excellent example of Cork's historical and cultural legacy of economic geology, given the widespread use of this rock across the city.

Management/promotion issues
The site is now home to several rare flora and semi-natural habitats, and is open to the public, with information leaflets and educational resources available online, although it would benefit from the addition of a geology information board. It is easily accessible with potential for further promotion, though some parts may become dangerous in wet weather, including access to the karst features. There is littering and vandalism around several rock faces.

Beaumont Quarry has been extensively revegetated, but there are several outcrops still visible and easily accessible within the park.

Left: the main karst system, with entry from a ledge halfway up the quarry face, has an initial drop of ~2 m. Right: another entrance to the karst system is closed off.


Temple Hill Lawn
Churchyard Lane
Dundanion Road
Marble Hill
Boreenmanna Road
Upper Beaumont Drive
Corvalley Court
Pairc Ui Rinn
Churchyard Lane
Beaumont Lawn
Churchyard Lane
N
0 30 60 120 180 240
Meters
Cherrington


Temple Hill Lawn
Churchyard Lane
Dundanion Road
Marble Hill
Boreenmanna Road
Upper Beaumont Drive
Corvalley Court
Pairc Ui Rinn
Churchyard Lane
Beaumont Lawn
R852
N
0 30 60 120 180 240
Meters