

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE**Ballymalone Quarry**

Other names used for site

Raheen Bridge

TOWNLAND(S)

Ballymalone

NEAREST TOWN

Tuamgraney

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

29

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

164890 181415 = R 649 814

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

58

1/2 inch Sheet No. 18**Outline Site Description**

Small quarry

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Late Ordovician (Caradoc) graptolitic shales and cherts.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Ordovician rocks of the Ballymalone Formation have been dated by graptolite fossils to be of Caradoc age. The site provides the only representative section of these rocks in the northeastern part of the Slieve Bernagh inlier, and complements the Ballyvorgal South site. The fossils were collected from the streambed, adjacent to the quarry (Rickards and Archer 1969), in difficult collecting circumstances so the availability of fresh, good exposures in the quarry offers great potential for more detailed research on the graptolite fauna.

Site Importance

The site is of County Geological Site importance under the IGH 4 Cambrian - Silurian theme of the GSI's IGH Programme.

Management/promotion issues

Largely of academic interest as a good place to see reasonably fresh exposure of the Ordovician Ballymalone Formation. Black shales have previously yielded graptolite fossils in the locality, but not potentially as easy to find. Landowner is not known and no access problems known, but probably not suitable for general promotion.



