

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ballyclogh Quarry		
Other names used for site	Ballyclogh Quarry, Ballyclogh Marble Quarries		
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous		
TOWNLAND(S)	Lisleagh		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Ballyclogh		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	24		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	549700E 602200N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	73	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	21
GIS CODE	CK006		

Outline Site Description

Disused limestone quarry on the outskirts of village.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Bedrock is Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous) Caherduggan Limestone Formation, comprising crinoidal limestone with nodular chert.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The name Ballyclogh derives from the Irish *Baile Cloch*, the town of the stones. The name is anecdotally linked to a local abundance of quarries. Early GSI sheets note 'red and variegated limestones' at the quarry site. The quarry is shown on first edition Ordnance Survey Six Inch scale sheets which were surveyed 1840, and published 1844.

Limestone is exposed along the north side of the quarry, where exposed strata dip at around 45° to the south. The inclined strata rise from the quarry floor, for almost 20 m, to the high ground above the quarry. The bedrock is characterised as thin-bedded calcisiltite and calcarenite limestone, frequently crinoidal and locally cherty. Crinoids and chert are visible on the south dipping (approximately 45°) strata exposed on the north side of the quarry.

Samuel Lewis (Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 1837) noted that at '*Ballyclogh...Limestone abounds, and forms substratum eminence on which the village is situated*'. George Kinahan (Irish Marbles and Limestones, 1887) makes reference to '*Ballyclogh, near Mallow. – Reddish; hard; slaty character; suitable for flagging; formerly used a little for chimney-pieces.*'

Site Importance – County Geological Site

An important County Geological Site in terms of its historical significance as an industrial quarry site.

Management/promotion issues

Some areas in the quarry are covered with limestone rubble, whilst quarry floor areas are relatively level and rubble-free. Vegetation encroachment is ongoing in the disused quarry, with willow, gorse, and bramble present. The entrance track is thoroughly overgrown. The site will remain of interest to researchers so long as the limestone strata remain exposed and safely accessible. The site is otherwise not suitable for promotion. The site is privately-owned and access should be sought by permission.



View over Ballyclogh Quarry, looking southwest towards Ballyclogh village.



Rubble-free quarry floor.



Limestone exposed at east end of quarry.



Crinoid and brachiopod fossils visible on surface of inclined bed exposed quarry face.



South dipping limestone strata.

