

CARLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Bannagagole Quarry		
Other names used for site	Baunleath Quarry, Old Leighlin Quarry		
TOWNLAND(S)	Bannagagole		
NEAREST TOWN	Oldleighlin		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	15		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	266000 164000	=	S 66 64
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	61		1/2 inch Sheet No. 19

Outline Site Description

Very large and deep working quarry

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Carboniferous limestone of the Ballyadams Formation, from the Viséan Series of the Lower Carboniferous.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Limestones of the Ballyadams Formation are found in the Bannagagole quarry. Some of the beds are marketed as Kilkenny Black Marble when cut and polished. As well as being an important provider of material for buildings and monuments the Bannagagole quarry hosts many interesting fossils. The quarry is the recorded locality for a variety of solitary corals such as *Dibunophyllum* and colonial rugose corals such as *Lithostrotion*. More importantly a single specimen of *Lonsdaleia* (a phaceloid, colonial rugose coral) *Lonsdaleia floriformis floriformis* is recorded "...the second record of this form from a known locality in Ireland..." (Jackson 1955). The quarry is also a type locality for M'Coy's brachiopod species *Brachythyris planicostata*, with the syntype specimen in the Griffith Collection of the Natural History Museum.

Site Importance

The site is of National importance and is likely to be proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 3 Carboniferous - Pliocene Palaeontology theme and the IGH8 Lower Carboniferous theme of the GSI's IGH Programme.

Management/promotion issues

The site is one of Stone Developments Ltd, largest working quarries, exporting limestone for building and monumental work to Ireland and Europe. No management issues arise, except if the quarry were to close; then maintaining access for geologists would be desirable. As a working quarry it is not suitable for promotion to general visitors other than at the instigation of the operators, although the showrooms and outdoor samples etc are available for anyone to visit.

Contact: Philip Meaney, Stone Developments Ltd, Baunleath Quarry, Old Leighlin, Carlow 059-9721227, also see www.stonedependments.ie



Limestone is sawn out in massive blocks for use as cladding slabs.



The westerly dip of the limestone beds is apparent in this view of the quarry.

Bannagole Quarry

