

CARLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Clogrenan Quarry
Other names used for site	Clogrennane Lime Ltd, Irish Sugar Company Quarry
TOWNLAND(S)	Raheendoran, Clogrenan,
NEAREST TOWN	Carlow
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	7
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	268810 172040 = S 6881 7204
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	61 1/2 inch Sheet No. 19

Outline Site Description

A large and deep working quarry

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Carboniferous limestone; the youngest formation in the region, with an unconformity between it and the younger shales overlying the limestone.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This active quarry exposes the Lower Carboniferous Ballyadams Formation at the base of the section and passes upwards into the Clogrenan Formation. It is the type locality for the Clogrenan Formation (i.e. the location that best represents the formation). Thickly bedded wackestones and crinoid-rich [calcarenites](#) of the Ballyadams Formation are exposed at the base of the section. Irregular clay horizons are also found. These indicate periods of soil formation as the area was uplifted above sea level. An important stratigraphical boundary, the Asbian/Brigantian boundary is exposed in the middle part of the quarry. The base of the Clogrenan Formation coincides with this major boundary. The Clogrenan Formation is conspicuous due to its absence of clay horizons and the presence of nodular chert at its base. This lack of impurities makes the limestone very attractive for chemical uses. One clay section on the northern edge requires study but may include some Tertiary karstification.

Site Importance

The site is of National importance and is likely to be proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 8 Lower Carboniferous theme of the GSI's IGH Programme.

Management/promotion issues

The site is a large working quarry, producing lime for chemical uses, and some limestone for aggregates and other uses. 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.

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A general view of the quarry.



The lime kilns and quarry plant.

Clogrenan Quarry

