

## FINGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Nags Head Quarry</b>		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME:</b>	IGH 8 (Lower Carboniferous)		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Nags Head		
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	Naul		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	4		
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	315500 257910 = O 155 579		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	43	<b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b>	13

### Outline Site Description

Large working quarry.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Viséan) limestone, shale and sandstone.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This large working quarry 5km south of Naul exposes Lower Carboniferous rocks of the Loughshinny Formation - a mixture of thin to medium bedded limestone and shale. The structural deformation seen here, for example as chevron folds, reflects the geology also visible 12km away on the coast at Loughshinny. The Nags Head structures are bigger and are much better preserved than those on the coast as they have been sheltered from the erosion of the sea. In the northern part of the quarry, one of the very few exposures of Upper Carboniferous sandstones in North County Dublin, was reported to be exposed. The audit revealed that this Upper Carboniferous section has been backfilled, but it is possible that the sandstones may be uncovered in the future in another part of the quarry.

### Site Importance

This site shows impressive large scale structural features within the bedrock, that can only otherwise be observed along the coastal section at Loughshinny. This quarry would make an excellent teaching locality, while the walls are still exposed and it is recommended for County Geological Site status.

### Management/promotion issues

As a large scale working quarry, operated by Murphy Environmental, this is a potentially hazardous environment and is not suitable for general promotion without first contacting the owners. The quarry management may allow supervised educational groups inside the quarry, on request.



Above: Large scale chevron folds within the shale and limestone of the Loughshinny Formation at Nags Head Quarry.

# Nags Head Quarry

