

DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Laghy Quarries
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Carrick East
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Laghy
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	100
ITM CO-ORDINATES	594162E, 873826N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER: 11	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NOS. 3, 4
GIS Code DL021	

Outline Site Description

The site comprises two adjacent quarries, one being worked and the other in use as a recycling park and Donegal County Council storage depot.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks exposed in the quarries are massively bedded limestone of the Lower Carboniferous Ballyshannon Limestone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The main interest in these two quarries is the succession through the lower section of the Ballyshannon Limestone Formation as exposed in the high quarry faces. The Ballyshannon Limestone Formation typically contains grey, massively bedded crinoidal calcarenite, which is a clean limestone well suited for use as an aggregate (crushed stone for roadmaking and ready mix).

Immediately east of the quarries is the contact with the underlying Argillaceous Limestones and Calcareous Shales facies unit, which makes up part of the lowermost Ballyshannon Limestone Formation and represents the establishment of fully marine conditions in the Carboniferous of south Donegal.

Site Importance: County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA

Laghy quarry faces provide an important record of the lower Ballyshannon Limestone Formation, which is of regional significance. As with boreholes and cliff sections, quarries can offer extensive sections through the geological succession, often in areas of limited or no exposure.

Management/promotion issues

Both sites are currently in use. The western quarry, containing the most extensive faces, is a working quarry producing aggregate. It would be desirable for the IGH programme to agree a closure policy with the quarry operator, in order to preserve a representative section of the rock face. Further promotion, perhaps through an information panel and viewing platform, would have the dual benefit of promoting geological heritage and of improving public perception of the extractive industry.

The smaller, eastern quarry is now a county council-operated civic recycling centre and should be managed by the council so as to ensure preservation of and access to the quarry face by interested parties.



Eastern quarry face in County Council storage depot.



Western quarry face, showing lower Ballyshannon Limestone Formation succession.



Western quarry, aggregate processing plant.

