

GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Oldchapel Quarry
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Rushveala
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Oughterard
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	54
ITM CO-ORDINATES	513800E 742415N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET No. 45	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 10, 11

Outline Site Description

An abandoned quarry on farmland, east of Oughterard town.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The quarry is in Carboniferous Limestone. The rock is a local thin unit termed the Illaungappul Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The significant feature of interest in the Oldchapel Quarry is an unusual cross-bedded limestone unit at the base of the Illaungappul Formation, which is exposed in a strike section along the quarry's length. A basal bed of around 1 m thickness is a coarse, sandy grainstone with scattered quartz granules. Then there is mainly a single set of cross beds, dipping consistently to the north east at c. 20° for over 200 m. Above the cross-bedded unit is a gastropod rich conglomeratic limestone, less than 60 cm thick, with common clasts of bored micrite derived from the older Oldchapel Formation below. This unit also has small clasts of Oughterard granite. Above this again is a pebbly limestone about 1.5 m thick. Some of the clasts and the limited exposure suggest the Oldchapel Formation was peritidal.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This package of sedimentary rocks is very unusual for Carboniferous Limestone localities and warrants recognition as a County Geological Site. It may be recommended for geological NHA designation, when all Carboniferous Limestone sites have been reviewed and compared.

Management/promotion issues

The site is on private farmland and landowner permission should be sought before attempting a visit. It is somewhat specialist in the nature of the geological interest and is not ideally suited to more general promotion, but needs to be protected from disruption by earthworks or filling. The faces are weathered enough to show the cross bedding well.



Sections of face clearly show the cross bedded unit overlain by level-bedded limestones.



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Views of the linear nature of Oldchapel Quarry.

