

KILDARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Carbury Castle		
Other names used for site			
TOWNLAND(S)	Carbury		
NEAREST TOWN	Edenderry		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	8		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	268610 235070 = N 6861 3507		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	49	1/2 inch Sheet No.	16

Outline Site Description

A disused quarry at the north end of Carbury Hill below the ruined castle.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Carboniferous limestones, 'Calp' as found across a wide area of the Dublin Basin and Irish Midlands.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The quarry exposes good sections of Calp limestones; individual beds of limestone around 10-40cm thick in general with thin interbedded black shales. These were formed in a deeper water marine basin environment, and this particular quarry demonstrates instability in the environment of deposition. A number of slumps are evident, with soft sedimentary deformation of the beds and truncated units on the slide or slump surfaces. These are sections where unconsolidated sediments have slid or moved downslope in patches, disrupting previous beds and breaking the regularity of sedimentary beds.

Site Importance

Good exposed sections of Calp limestones are relatively uncommon and the additional sedimentary environmental data derived from the slumps makes this a site certainly worthy of County Geological Site status. It may also be considered as an NHA under the IGH 8 Carboniferous theme.

Management/promotion issues

The land is privately owned (owner unknown) although access to the Castle is seemingly traditionally accepted from the presence of stiles, presumed rights of way to the churchyard and from requests for access made locally during assessment. Not suitable for general promotion without permission from the landowner and appropriate arrangements organised. Suitable for use by geological field groups with permission. If such can be arranged, the face would benefit from limited vegetation (couch grass and ash trees saplings etc) removal on the key slumped localities.



Carbury Castle

