

LONGFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Killoe Quarry
Other names used for site	Rhyne Rock Ltd.
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Rhine
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Longford
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	9
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	619500E 780000N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	41 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 Sheet No. 12

Outline Site Description

A large working quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The quarry is in the Lucan Formation, of Viséan (Lower Carboniferous) age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This quarry is a very large one, exposing the Lucan Formation at the western fringes of the basin that extended across to Dublin at the time it was deposited. The beds are relatively thin but there is less shale between the beds than in other parts of the basin. The strata are sub horizontal and little disturbed. Although not easily accessible, the depth of the quarry shows the great thickness of limestone beds. There is very little karstification here with no dolines or significant infilled cave passages apparent. However, on the southeastern side of the quarry there is very thick overburden and the limestone is therefore much deeper below the surface than expected, which curtailed expansion of the quarry in that direction.

Production of limestone from here is mostly used as aggregate for concrete, hardcore, roadmaking, fill and similar uses.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is a good representative site for the Lower Carboniferous limestone rocks in Longford, which are poorly exposed in the county other than in quarries.

Management/promotion issues

The quarry is a working environment with its inherent dangers and is unsuitable for general promotion or visits, without the permission of the owners and operators.



Panorama view of Killoe Quarry from the southeast end looking northwest.



Panorama view of Killoe Quarry from the northwest end looking southeast.



Panorama view of the Killoe Quarry looking east to the thick overburden on the SE margin.



View of the Killoe Quarry looking into the deepest working face.

