

LIMERICK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Foynes Road Sections
Other names used for site	Foynes road section and inland outcrop
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous, IGH3 Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology
TOWNLAND(S)	Ardaneer, Corrig
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Foynes
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	10
ITM CO-ORDINATES	525870E 650785N (N69 Roadside Outcrop, Ardaneer)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 64	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 17
GIS CODE LK013	

Outline Site Description

Limestone exposures visible along roadsides.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Bedrock comprises fossiliferous Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous) Visean limestones of the Durnish Formation (dark bioclastic limestones with chert nodules), Shanagolden Formation (well-bedded limestones), and Parsonage Formation (grey mudbank limestones).

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site comprises a several individual sites that collectively provide an insight into a sequence of limestone that infer the environmental conditions of northwest Limerick around 335 million years ago. Around 1km south of the oil depot, a 25m long section of limestone beds of the Durnish Formation is exposed on the west side of the N69 road. This section yields fossils including solitary corals. These beds dip gently westwards. The Durnish Formation is interpreted as having been deposited below 'fairweather wave' depths.

Overlying the Durnish Formation is the Shanagolden Formation. A well exposed bed of the Shanagolden Formation outcrops in a field, just north of the ESB substation on the hill at Corrig townland (ITM 525719 650591). This bed of limestone dips gently about 25° westwards. The Shanagolden Formation records deposition of carbonate sediments in gradually deepening waters.

Exposures of Parsonage Formation mudbank limestones are visible from the roadside on a scarp face to the rear of private dwellings situated along the minor road in Corrig townland. These beds can be seen to dip gently westward at about 15°.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

An important County Geological Site in terms the rich faunal assemblage data the rocks have yielded and hence contributed to our understanding of environmental conditions in the part of northwest Limerick during Lower Carboniferous times, around 335 million years ago.

Management/promotion issues

The roadside limestone outcrops along the N26 at Ardaneer provide a good view of the geological foundation of this part of Limerick, and are seen by hundreds of passing road users on a daily basis. Careful management of the outcrops would allow the rocks faces to remain unobstructed by vegetation. The outcrop at Corrig Farm is on private land. Permission should be sought from the landowner, whose farm sheds are immediately to the north of the outcrop. The research value of outcrops on private property should be communicated to property owners where applicable.



Durnish Formation exposures along N69 south of Foyne's.



Shanagolden Formation bed exposed at Corrig Farm.



Parsonage Formation beds to the rear of private dwelling at Corrig townland.

