

LAOIS - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Farnans Quarry
Other names used for site	Drimsallagh quarry
IGH THEME	IGH9 Upper Carboniferous and Permian IGH15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	Farnans
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Swan
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	31
ITM CO-ORDINATES	660435E 681780N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	61 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 15, 16

Outline Site Description

A working quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The quarry extracts sandstone flags from the Coolbaun Coal Formation of Westphalian age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site is a working quarry, for paving slabs, building stone and cladding. The rock splits relatively easily into varied thicknesses and can remain in large slabs. Hand working of the past has been superseded by mechanical diggers, but the rock is readily lifted. It often displays ripple marks and other sedimentary features that give texture and variety to the slabs.

The site comprises only the workings for slabs. Immediately adjacent, and on the opposite side of the road are some quarries, operated by different owners, which have opened up more recently and where blasting has occurred. The rock is not visible in useful ways due to the different style of working, and these are not part of the site.

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

This is a good County Geological Site, but may be considered for an NHA in the future to represent the Upper Carboniferous Coolbaun Coal Formation, due to the relative scarcity of exposure of these coalfield rocks.

Management/promotion issues

The geological heritage interest relies on continued working of the quarry as a place to see the strata that it exposes and access for geologists is important. However, it is not suitable for promotion to the public as it is a private business and a working environment. Should the quarry cease to operate in the future, then some negotiated access to the site should be sought.



A view of Farnans Quarry.



A view of Farnans Quarry, looking north.



A view of Farnans Quarry, looking south.



Very large slabs put aside in Farnans Quarry, beside the entrance.

