

# MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Barley Hill Quarry</b>		
Other names used for site	Ardagh Quarry		
<b>IGH THEME:</b>	IGH 3, 8, 9 (Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology, Lower Carboniferous, Upper Carboniferous)		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Ardagh		
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	Kingscourt		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	3		
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	283500 295500 = N 835 955		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	35	<b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b>	13

## Outline Site Description

A working quarry.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower to Upper Carboniferous limestone, locally fossiliferous.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This relatively large Roadstone quarry, situated just east of Kingscourt, shows good exposures of locally fossiliferous limestone (used for aggregates). The quarry contains a reef limestone mud-mound, which is home to a variety of fossil species, including examples of brachiopods, bivalves, gastropods, corals and algae, and others. Many of the faces within this quarry, some up to 50m high, are highly weathered, with only a few fresh faces exposed. Fossils are best viewed within these fresh faces.

## Site Importance

The rare assemblages of some of the fossils within this quarry, including species of coral and algae are grounds for designation of this site as a NHA.

## Management/promotion issues

As a working quarry this is a potentially hazardous environment and would not be suitable for general promotion without appropriate access arrangements being made with Roadstone.



Left: Brachiopod fossil found within Barley Hill Quarry (many of the species observed were found within debris that had fallen away from the quarry faces.

Right: Quarrying for aggregate in operation at Barley Hill Quarry

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