

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Bray Hill Quarry		
Other names used for site	Roadstone – Trim Quarry		
IGH THEME:	IGH 8 (Lower Carboniferous)		
TOWNLAND(S)	Stokestown		
NEAREST TOWN	Trim		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	36		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	281500 253200 = N 815 532		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	42	1/2 inch Sheet No.	13

Outline Site Description

A working quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Waulsortian) limestone and Tertiary dolerite sill.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This large working quarry, operated by Roadstone, is found about 4km south of Trim along the R158. It is composed mainly of massive Waulsortian limestone with occasional shale in the upper levels, possibly of the Lucan Formation. Throughout this quarry are a number of good fossiliferous areas, mostly showing of crinoids and occasional corals. At the base of the quarry is an excellent example of an exposed sill, composed of dolerite. This dark coloured igneous intrusive rock was formed when magma pushed its way through the surrounding limestone beds and cooled to form a sill. The magma that forms these sills never reached the surface and was only uncovered here through the quarrying operation.

Site Importance

This is an excellent example of an easily accessible Tertiary sill within Waulsortian limestone and is recommended as a County Geological Site. This is also a good location for observing and collecting fossils and is an excellent teaching locality.

Management/promotion issues

As a large scale working quarry, operated by Roadstone, this is a potentially hazardous environment and is not suitable for general promotion without first contacting the owners.



Left: Gastropod fossil found within the Waulsortian Limestone at Bray Hill near where the sill is located.
Right: A number of crinoid stem fossils found in the Waulsortian Limestone in the upper areas of the quarry.
Middle: The Tertiary sill found within the lower levels of Trim Quarry. These sills are present along nearly all of the exposed faces at this level in the quarry pit. They are much darker than the surrounding light blue-grey limestone. The sills can be observed here running parallel to the beds of the surrounding limestone.

Bray Hill Quarry

