

MAYO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ringarraun
Other names used for site	Ballyheane Quarry
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Ringarraun
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Ballyheane
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	89
ITM CO-ORDINATES	515300E 783100N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 31	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 11
GIS Code MO088	

Outline Site Description

A limestone quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The Oakport Limestone Formation is early Viséan (Chadian) in age. The lithologies are mainly thick-bedded fine- to coarse-grained limestones, with rare black shales and very rare clay bands of the Oakport Limestone Formation (Creagh Member).

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The limestones were deposited in a shallow-water, moderate- to high-energy marine shelf environment (Galway-Roscommon Shelf). The quarry faces exhibit thick-bedded limestone strata dipping gently (11°) to the northeast. The site is situated c. 500m south of the NE-SW trending Erriff Valley Fault (Derrycraf Fault). Large solitary rugose corals, tabulate corals, gastropods, brachiopods and crinoids are the main macrofaunal elements. Dark-grey chert nodules occur locally in the topmost beds of the formation. The formation also contains burrowed lime mudstones, which indicate deposition in low-energy intertidal lagoonal environments. The biota is rich and diverse with abundant crinoids, foraminifers and calcareous algae, suggesting growth in a shallow photic zone.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

An important County Geological Site that hosts fresh exposures of Lower Carboniferous limestone. It is important to understanding the depositional environments in this region of Ireland during Lower Carboniferous times.

Management/promotion issues

This quarry is an active working site. Access to the site is by permission of the owners (Vahey Sand and Stone Ltd., Carrowclogher, 2018).



Ringarraun Quarry viewed from entrance gate.



Northeast dipping strata exposed on north side of quarry.

