

ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Castlemine Quarry
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Cashelmeehan
NEAREST TOWN	Roscommon
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	35
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	187900 271000 (centre of quarry)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	40 1/2 inch Sheet No. 12

Outline Site Description

Castlemine Quarry is a large working quarry about 6km north of Roscommon town.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The quarry is excavated in Carboniferous limestone, which dates from about 330 million years ago. The Geological Survey of Ireland maps the limestone in this locality as undifferentiated but these rocks may belong to the Ballymore Limestone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Over 22m thickness of horizontal limestone beds are seen throughout the quarry, which provides a window into the bedrock which is normally very rarely exposed in County Roscommon. Thick and massive beds are visible across the quarry. Some faces display some karstic solution, with occasional narrow solution pipes and brown calcite stained walls of narrow fissures.

Some beds are very rich in fossils of corals, crinoids, brachiopods and gastropods.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

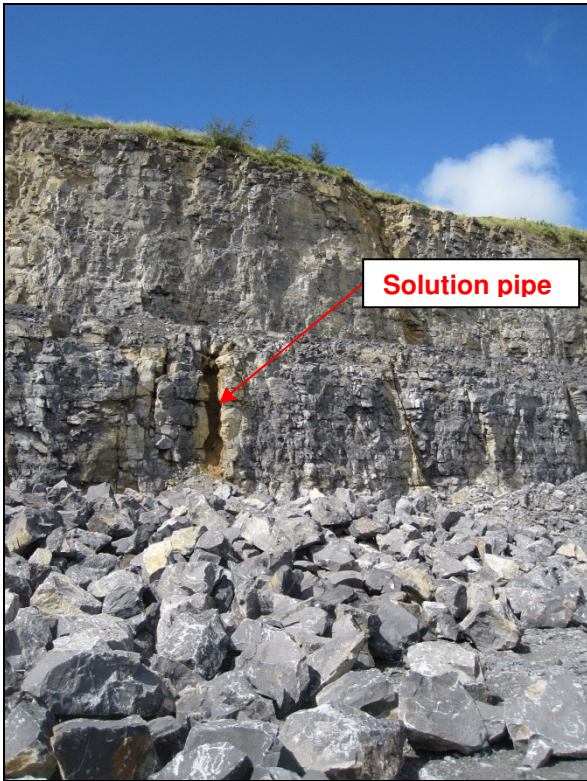
This is a good representative site displaying the Carboniferous limestone bedrock in central County Roscommon.

Management/promotion issues

As a working quarry, the listing as a County Geological Site has no implications for the normal operation of the quarry, subject to standard permissions and conditions under planning and environmental legislation. It would be desirable to consider retaining representative faces for geological purposes during any final closure stages. The quarry is not suitable for any general promotion other than by express agreement and permission of the owners and operators, Roadstone Wood.



A general view of Castlemine Quarry from the quarry floor.



A karstic solution pipe visible in the face.



A calcite stained fissure in the quarry face.

