

# ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Largan Quarry</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH8 Lower Carboniferous</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Largan, Cuilrevagh</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	<b>Elphin</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>192530 285400</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>33</b> <b>1/2 inch Sheet No. 12</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

Largan Quarry is a large working quarry in the northern side of Greywood Hill, north of Strokestown.

## **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 as undifferentiated but these rocks may belong to the Ballymore Limestone Formation.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

Near perfect 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 of the northern faces in particular, but also faces elsewhere in the quarry, display some karstic solution, with pipes and some clay filled cavities, as well as brown calcite stained walls of narrow fissures.

The hill was overtopped by ice sheets during the Ice Age, since there are thick glacial tills in a road cut up to the top of the hill at the south side of the quarry. In addition, freshly exposed rock surfaces (as in the summer of 2012) at the southern end of the quarry show streamlined bedrock forms known as 'P' forms, as well as striations and chattermarks.

## **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

This is a good representative site displaying Carboniferous limestone bedrock in County Roscommon, with additional features of glacial and karstic interest.

## **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, Hanly Brothers Limited.



A view of Largin Quarry, looking southwest from the eastern side.



Glacial striations freshly exposed from beneath glacial till on the hilltop (left). Rounded edges to limestone beds near the summit are glacial features known as "P"-forms (right).

