ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	**McKeon's Pit**
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	**IGH7 Quaternary**
TOWNLAND(S)	**Culliaghmore, Culliaghbeg**
NEAREST TOWN	**Shannonbridge**
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	**56**
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	**190500 228300**
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	**47 1/2 inch Sheet No. 15**

Outline Site Description
This is a gravel pit cut into a wide, hummocky feature comprised of sand and gravel which partially smothers the Ballinasloe-Split Hill-Clonmacnoise-Clara Esker System at Culliaghmore and Culliaghbeg, in southernmost County Roscommon.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
The pit is cut into a series of fan features which is formed on bedrock of Lower Carboniferous limestone. The features themselves are Quaternary in age, having been deposited at the edge of the westward-retreating ice sheet during deglaciation after the last Ice Age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
The fan feature is a fine example of the type of associated deglacial feature that often forms adjacent to eskers. The pit seems to be comprised of several fans, which coalesce to form one large ridge feature at Culliaghmore and Culliaghbeg.

The esker is comprised chiefly of limestone clasts which have been derived from the bedrock around the site within the Irish Midlands. These were carried by ice, released into the meltwater conduit on top of or within the ice, and then deposited at the ice margin as the river left the ice and flowed off eastwards subaerially.

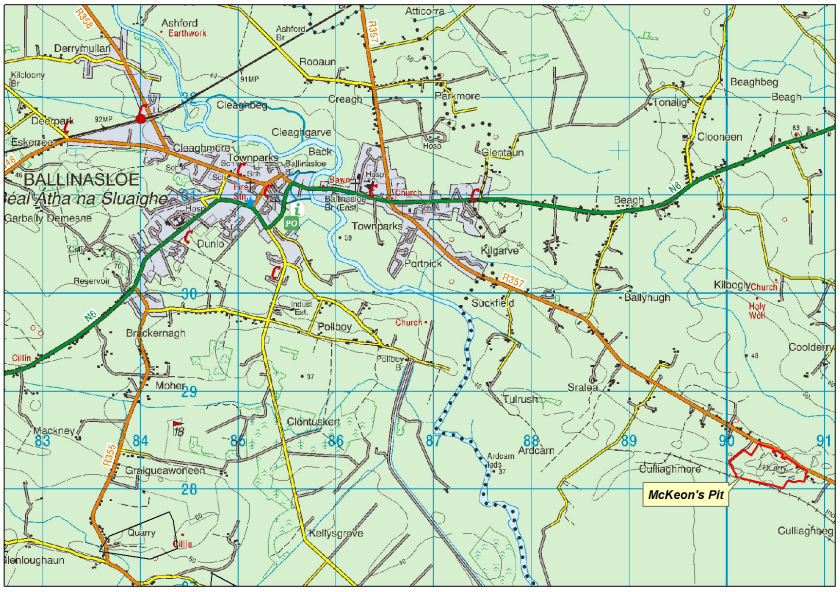
The gravel pit has been worked down to the top of bedrock and now limestone is being worked and crushed as well as gravel.

Site Importance – County Geological Site
This fan is an excellent example of a deglacial, ice marginal, meltwater-deposited feature. This pit is a nice cutting into a good example of a fan feature.

Management/promotion issues
As a working gravel pit and rock 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 rock faces for geological purposes during any final closure stages. However, maintaining faces of sand and gravel deposits is unrealistic as they quickly degrade and vegetate. The quarry is not suitable for any general promotion other than by express agreement and permission of the owners and operators, Roadstone Wood.

A view into McKeon's Pit showing flooded workings in bedrock limestone with the thick gravel fan deposit overlying.

The worked out gravel deposit on the southern side of the fan, with thick bog deposits adjacent.


BALLINASLOE
Béal Átha na Sluaighe
McKeon's Pit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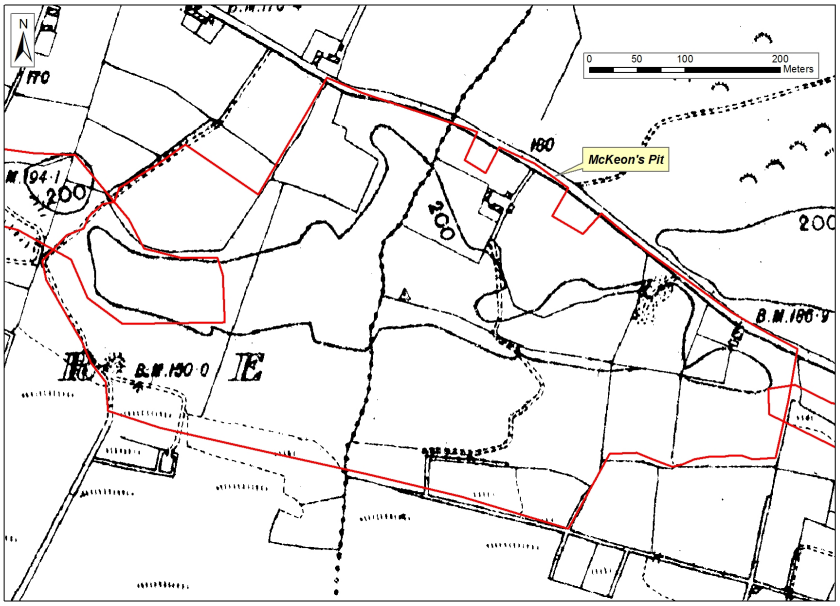
Meters
McKeon's Pit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