

SOUTH DUBLIN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Belgard Quarry
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH 8 Lower Carboniferous, IGH 15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	Cheeverstown, Belgard, Bedlesshill, Kingswood
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Clondalkin
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	21
ITM CO-ORDINATES	706400E 729100N (centre of quarry)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	50
GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO:	16

Outline Site Description

Belgard Quarry is a very large, working quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The quarry is extracting the Lower Carboniferous Limestone.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Belgard is the largest limestone quarry in the country and is excavating the Lower Carboniferous Calp limestone. This is a deeper water basinal limestone, in regular beds of varying thickness. The extensive quarry faces show the rocks well, with gentle dips in most parts, but with some localised flexures and disruption along faulted zones, with nearly vertical beds in localised zones. There are only a couple of metres of overburden. In one section of the quarry, a particular impermeable layer has the effect of causing extensive groundwater flow out of the face, with tufa type deposits forming a curtain over the face.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

As a particularly large quarry, supplying a range of products to the large Dublin market, Belgard has a vital economic importance, but is also of geological heritage significance as the biggest exposure of the otherwise poorly exposed Calp Limestone which underlies Dublin.

Management/promotion issues

As a large, busy working quarry, there is normally no access, unless for organised visitors with permission and by prior arrangement with the quarry management. The public can however visit a retail zone where company products from this and other quarries are displayed. The quarry has reserves to last for many decades and so the end-use is not an important issue for this generation.



A panoramic view of Belgard Quarry from the south west side.



A panoramic view of Belgard Quarry in the deepest working in late 2014.



A panoramic view of Belgard Quarry on the north western side.



Tufa curtain on a face.



Disrupted beds in a fault zone.



