

TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ballymacadam
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH3 Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology, IGH12 Mesozoic and Cenozoic
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballymacadam East
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Caher
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	82
ITM CO-ORDINATES	607690E 623425N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 74	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 22

Outline Site Description

A disused clay pit.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The Oligocene clays are preserved in karstic depressions in Carboniferous limestone.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Karstic subsidence deposits of unbedded pipe clays are of Oligocene age, set into surrounding Carboniferous limestones. Before 1980, the clays have yielded a pollen assemblage that appears to be of mixed woodland type. It contains a small number of Oligocene component palynomorphs (pollen) such as *Boehlensipollis* and *Cicatricosporites* and rare palm pollen such as *Dicolpopollis* and *Monocolpopollenites*. There were also lignite bands with fossil wood reported in the late 1850s but no specimens can be located and more recent collections have been very badly preserved. The mixed woodland pollen assemblage appears to differ from the contemporaneous swampy environments of Lough Neagh and the environmental conditions in other European lowland sites during this time.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

The rarity of such Oligocene deposits in Ireland is sufficient to justify the potential NHA status for this site, despite the apparently poor status of the site.

Management/promotion issues

The former clay pit is unprepossessing with no exposure currently and very heavy vegetation overgrowth. There are indications that there has been some backfilling with rubble or waste. Whilst this makes the current interest limited, the site has potential for renewed excavation or research investigations.



The clay pit at Ballymacadam is lacking in any exposures of rock.



The clay pit at Ballymacadam is heavily vegetated.

