

## TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Ballytarsna M8 Road Cut</b>		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH8 Lower Carboniferous</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Ballytarsna (Hackett), Grangemore</b>		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Cashel</b>		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>53</b>		
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>611300E 646760N</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	<b>18</b>

### Outline Site Description

A road cutting through limestone bedrock on the M8 motorway between Junction 6 Horse and Jockey and Junction 7 Cashel North.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Bedrock is Lower Carboniferous Durrow Formation, comprising marine shelf lithologies of shaley fossiliferous and oolitic limestone.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The cuttings provide an excellent window in the bedrock underlying this part of County Tipperary, particularly as fresh limestone exposures are rare in the south midlands. The Durrow Formation comprises repetitions of four main rock types: coral-rich and sorted grainstones; cross-bedded oolites; fossiliferous shales; and micrites. The Durrow Formation is named after a borehole section from west of Durrow, Co. Laois, and the formation is measured at a thickness of 200 m.

### Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is a good representative section for the Durrow Formation, and it is of County Geological Site importance. The rock exposures are a landmark and familiar feature along the M8 motorway between Cashel and Horse and Jockey.

### Management/promotion issues

Rock exposures along roadsides are prone to vegetation overgrowth and natural weathering of the rock surfaces. Motorway maintenance and verge management works could be designed such that the exposures are given attention to keep sections fresh and vegetation free. The site is not suitable for public promotion for obvious road safety reasons on the motorway. The rock exposures can however be observed from the overbridge. The cuttings have become landmarks along the route.



View southwards from rest stop area to M8 road cutting. Galtee Mountains in the distance.



Durrow Formation exposed on west side of M8 road cutting.



Thick bedded Durrow Formation lithologies exposed on west side of M8 road cutting.



