

TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Cloghleigh Quarry
Other names used for site	Gleesons Quarry (Golden)
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Cloghleigh
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Golden
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	68
ITM CO-ORDINATES	602200E 636100N (centre of quarry)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 66	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 18

Outline Site Description

An extensive quarry cut into a low, but prominent, steep-sided limestone hill.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Bedrock comprises dark grey Lower Carboniferous (359-323 Ma) limestone of the Lagganstown Formation, which is fine grained and which was deposited in open marine conditions.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The quarry at Cloghleigh produces stone for aggregates, chippings, crushed stone, railway ballast, lime dust, screenings, and drainage stone, as well as precast concrete and tank products.

The Lagganstown Formation limestone rocks are the typical muddy type limestone, with few fossils, and very dark grey to black in colour. Some very black and very thin beds are present near the base of the quarry. In general, the faces expose a relatively uniform sequence of thin bedded (0.1m-0.4m thick) fine grained, dark grey, shaley skeletal limestones. Some seams and irregular nodules of chert are also present. Few macrofossils are seen, and no graded bedding is observed.

The structural geology of the limestone in Cloghleigh Quarry is very complex, with a synclinal axis mapped as passing through the area just north of the quarry. The anticline associated with this does seem to pass through the quarry area itself, seen as huge folds within the layers of limestone. The beds are very steeply dipping to the north, at over 60°, and are near-vertical in places.

At the western end of the quarry, some faces expose glaciofluvial sands and gravels, which seem to be part of the former outwash plain of the River Suir.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This County Geological Site is an important representative site exhibiting fresh and extensive exposures of limestone of the Lagganstown Formation.

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. In the event of any future changes in quarrying operations, it would be desirable to consider retaining representative faces for geological purposes. As an operating quarry, the site is not suitable for any general promotion. Any correspondence can be made to the owner and operator Gleeson Precast (Golden), Golden, Cashel, County Tipperary (Phone 062 72630).



The southern face of Cloghleigh Quarry, into almost-black, shaley limestones.



Overfold in limestone at western end of the quarry, potentially an anticlinal axis.



Almost vertical beds of the Lagganstown Formation.



Sands and gravels exposed in the western end of the quarry.

