

WESTMEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	River Inny
Other names used for site	Ballinalack
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Cappagh, Ballinalack
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Ballinalack
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	6
ITM CO-ORDINATES	634760E 764830N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	41 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 12

Outline Site Description

The site comprises limestone outcrops on the bank of the River Inny, by the Mullingar-Longford N4 road bridge at Ballinalack.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Courseyan) Ballysteen Formation (Cruicetown Group) argillaceous bioclastic limestones, interbedded with fossiliferous calcareous shales.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site is the only recorded location in Westmeath where Ballysteen Formation limestones can be seen at the surface. The limestones are exposed under the 'new' N4 bridge and also along the west bank of the river, north of the road bridge. The lithologies comprise wackestone and packstone carbonate rock. The now disused twin-arched road bridge dates from 1874, and is constructed of limestone with rusticated rock-faced limestone voussoirs.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Although limited in exposure, this is an important County Geological Site because it is the only location in Westmeath where Ballysteen Formation limestones can be observed at the surface.

Management/promotion issues

The features are limited to a 200 m section of riverbank (west bank) along the River Inny and are not of significant interest for public promotion.



Limestone outcrops along northwest bank of River Inny. Ballinalack Bridge visible to south.



'New' and 'old' Ballinalack Bridge.



Limestone strata exposed on riverbank under new bridge.



View of River Inny from Ballinalack Bridge.
Limestones on left bank.



Limestone outcrops along bank of River Inny.

