

WEXFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Coolishall Quarry		
Other names used for site	Casey's Concrete		
IGH THEME	IGH4 Cambrian-Silurian		
TOWNLAND(S)	Coolishal Upper		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Gorey		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	11		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	712640E 657900N (centre of quarry)		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	69	GSI Bedrock 1:100,000 Sheet No.	19

Outline Site Description

A large working quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The quarry is excavating a large rhyolite body within the Upper Ordovician Duncannon Group rocks.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This is a good representative site for the large felsic volcanic rock bodies within the Upper Ordovician Duncannon Group. The group as a whole is widely thought to be a volcanic sequence, yet in reality, the majority of the rocks are the associated sedimentary strata. However, although the volcanic units tend to be more resistant to weathering and erosion, and therefore tend to form the small hills through central Wexford, they are still not well exposed, and this quarry provides a significant opportunity to see the large scale relationships and character of these bodies which can be extrusive volcanic strata, within the normal succession of rocks, but they can also be intrusive bodies cutting across and through the succession.

The quarry produces a wide range of products, such as aggregate for farm and forest roads, railway ballast, decorative use, as well as concrete and precast concrete products and blocks.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is a good representative site for a significant part of Wexford's geology not well displayed elsewhere.

Management/promotion issues

The inclusion of this quarry as a County Geological Site has absolutely no implications for the normal permitted operation of the quarry. It is hoped that the owner will continue to allow specialist research visits by geological groups by arrangement. It is not suited to general promotion as the quarry is a potentially dangerous working environment and all safety rules must be followed by any geologists visiting with the permission of the operator. The reserves in this quarry suggest a 50 year lifespan, and so any discussion of end-use retention for geological heritage reasons will be the task of a different generation.



Coolishall Quarry looking east, with the concrete plant at the top of the hill.



Coolishall Quarry, beside a haul road, showing the rich honey colour of the rhyolite rock.



The Coolishall Quarry looking south west.

