

LAOIS - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ballyadams Quarry		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous		
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballyadams		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Athy		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	19		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	662179E 691626N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	55	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	16

Outline Site Description

This site is a large working quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The quarry works a limestone formation named after this place – the Ballyadams Formation, which is of Holkerian to Asbian age within the Viséan Carboniferous Limestone succession.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site is a good representative of the thick sequence of shelf limestones (formed in shallow marine seas) in the Stradbally district. The formation as a whole may be up to 700m thick and the height of the quarry face exposes a large section of this. Cyclical deposition is evident in the face, with several major discontinuities visible. These are clay wayboards marking a volcanic ash eruption which may have created a clay rich horizon or a ‘fossil’ soil. They may also be karstic surfaces where there is some karstic solution due to exposure or emergence above the sea water for a period.

The quarry faces also show the lateral continuity of the limestone beds which are consistently developed over large areas, and in this region, are largely unbroken by faulting. There are also some very fossiliferous beds (mostly recorded in borehole cores), particularly brachiopod shells and corals.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA

This site may be considered for NHA status under the IGH8 Lower Carboniferous theme when all sites are reviewed on a national basis but it is certainly a robust County Geological Site as a representative site for the Carboniferous Limestone of the south east of the county.

Management/promotion issues

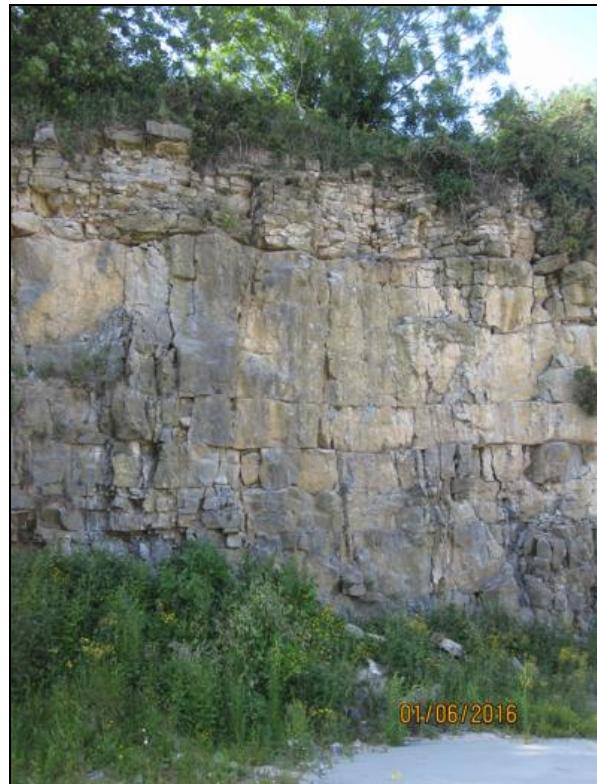
The working quarry is unsuitable for promotion without some a specific arrangement supported and agreed by the Roadstone management, as it is a potentially dangerous workplace environment.



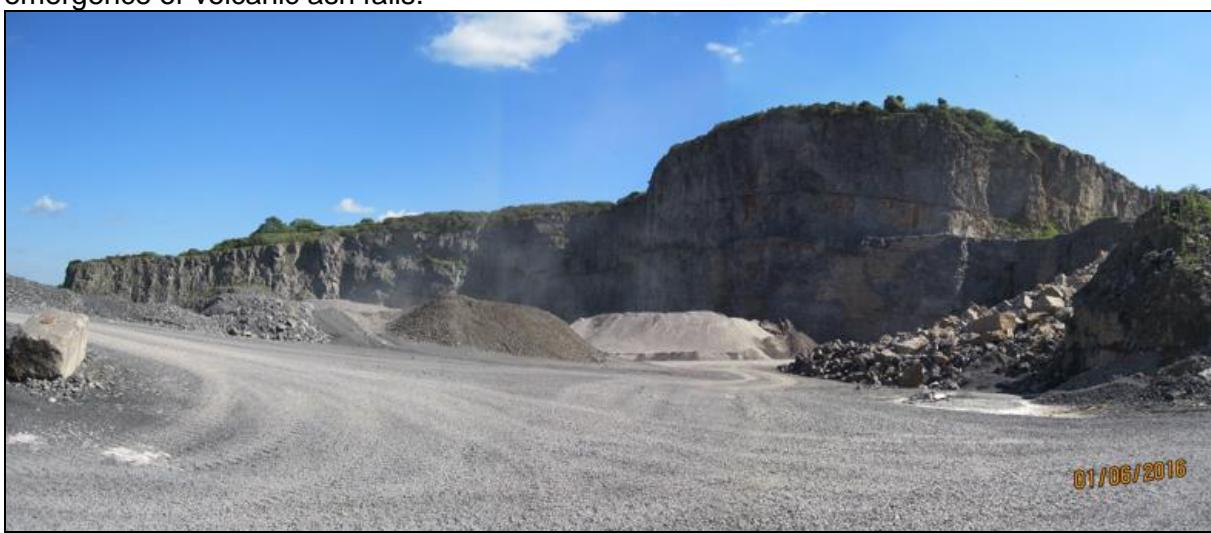
Panorama view of Ballyadams Quarry from the lower, northern side.



The main quarry faces shows several marked discontinuities which are clay wayboards representing periods of emergence or volcanic ash falls.



A clay wayboard is seen at the top of the massive beds, with thin beds above it, in an older section on the western quarry margin.



Panorama view of the quarry face from the quarry floor.

