

LAOIS - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Lisduff Quarry		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous		
TOWNLAND(S)	Lisduff, Knockahaw		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Rathdowney		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	27		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	619400E 677600N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	60	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	18

Outline Site Description

A large, active limestone quarry located 8km west of Rathdowney.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lisduff Oolite Member (Ballysteen Formation) bedrock comprising thick bedded, pale blue-grey, cross-bedded, well-jointed oolite of Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The site hosts clean and fresh quarry faces of Ballysteen Formation limestone. The strata dip gently 2°-10° south. Early GSI 1 inch scale sheets (Sheet 135) from the late 1800's show that the site, Knockahaw Hill, was recognised as an important fossil locality.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

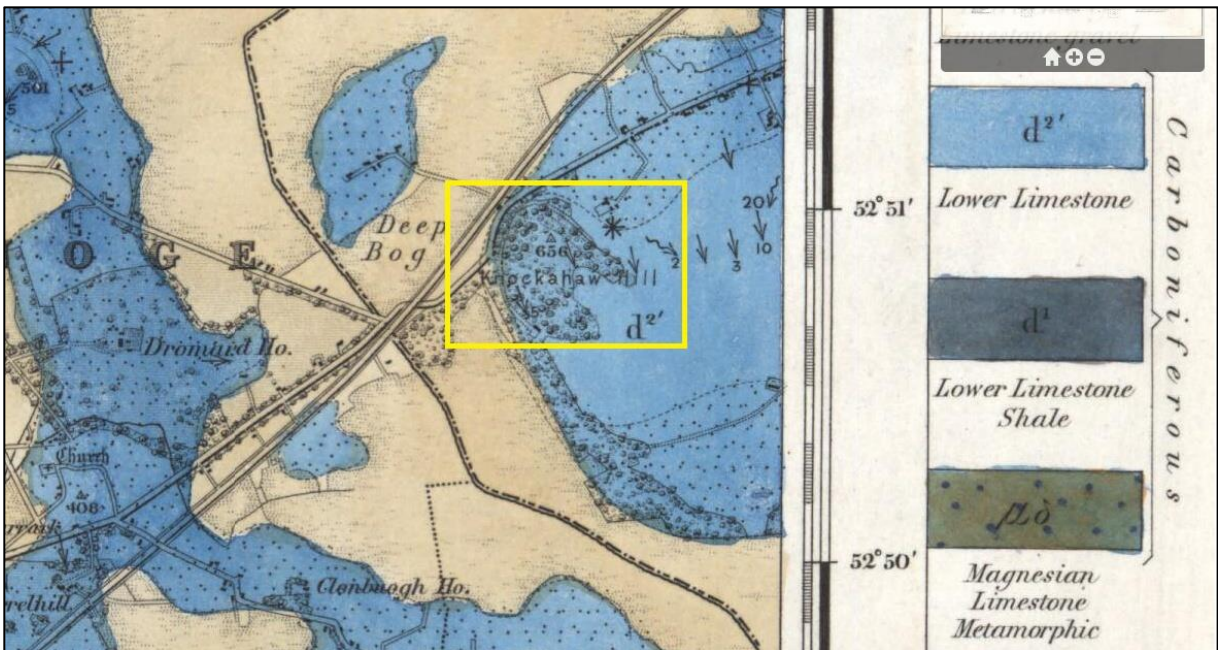
This is an important County Geological Site, and is an important representative site with extensive exposures of Ballysteen Limestone Formation.

Management/promotion issues

The site is a large working quarry, producing lime for chemical uses, and some limestone for aggregates and other uses. No management issues arise, except if the quarry were to close; then maintaining access for geologists would be desirable. As a working quarry it is not suitable for promotion to general visitors other than at the instigation of the operators. Contact: Dowling Quarries Ltd, Lisduff Quarry, Errill, Rathdowney, Co. Laois (Telephone: 0505 44210).



Entrance to Lisduff Quarry.



Knockahaw Hill on GSI Sheet 135 1-inch scale map, published 1860. Location of present-day quarry is at Knockahaw Hill.

