

## LAOIS - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>M7 Road Cut Derryvorrigan</b>		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH8 Lower Carboniferous</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Derryvorrigan</b>		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Borris-in-Ossory</b>		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>22</b>		
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>626500E 686150N</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	<b>15</b>

### **Outline Site Description**

A 500m long road cut through limestone bedrock on the M7 Motorway.

### **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

Bedrock is Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) dark-coloured muddy limestone (Ballysteen Formation).

### **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The limestones visible in the road cut exposures along this stretch of the M7 motorway provide a wonderful insight into the strata and structure of the bedrock in this region of County Laois.

### **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

This is a good representative section for the Ballysteen Formation, and it is of County Geological Site importance.

### **Management/promotion issues**

The exposures are in road cutting on a long busy motorway, and are therefore not suitable for general promotion. The exposures provide hundreds of daily passing motorists with a rare 'window' into the limestone strata that underlie this part of County Laois, and much of the Irish countryside. Some localised management to keep the rock faces clear of vegetation would preserve this open 'window' into the limestone foundation in this region of County Laois.



M7 Road Cut viewed looking east, beside M7 Motorway road sign.



M7 Road Cut viewed looking east from top of southern embankment.



