

MEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| NAME OF SITE | Poulmore Scarp |
| Other names used for site | South of Barley Hill House |
| IGH THEME: | IGH 3, 8 (Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology, Lower Carboniferous) |
| TOWNLAND(S) | |
| NEAREST TOWN | Kingscourt |
| SIX INCH MAP NUMBER | 2, 3 |
| NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE | 282450 295850 = N 8245 9585 |
| 1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER | 35 1/2 inch Sheet No. 13 |

Outline Site Description

Swallow hole and cliff section, which may also be a disused quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Carboniferous limestone and sandstones.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Poulmore Scarp is an 11m section at the top of the Deer Park Formation in a swallow-hole just south of Barley Hill House. It exposes the Viséan-Namurian junction – that is what geologists classify as the boundary between Lower and Upper Carboniferous rocks. The section shows massive micaceous sandstones which overlie thickly bedded recrystallized limestones. The limestones have yielded abundant fossil corals (known as *Caninia cornucopiae*) and crinoid ossicles. Somerville and Somerville (1999) have indicated that the scarp has yielded an exceptionally high number of microfossils (of a type known as conodonts), as well as a unique occurrence of a fossil green algae.

Site Importance

The occurrence of prolific conodonts and other fauna across the boundary of Lower and Upper Carboniferous rocks means that this site is proposed for NHA status (under the IGH3 Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology theme). It should also be listed as a County Geological Site in Meath.

Management/promotion issues

This site is on privately owned farmland and is under no obvious threat. The swallow hole should not be filled in or modified without geological advice, through the GSI. It is not suitable for general promotion with the public.



Poulmore Scarp

