

# CARLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Ballymoon Esker, Bagenalstown</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Curraghacruit, Ballymoon
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	Bagenalstown
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	16
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	272930 161770 = S 73 62
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	61 <b>1/2 inch Sheet No. 19</b>

## Outline Site Description

An esker ridge of glacial sands and gravels.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Long ridge of water-sorted glacial sand and gravel.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Rivers, which developed beneath and within melting ice sheets towards the end of the last glaciation deposited sand and gravel in the form of striking, often bead-like ridges or eskers like that exposed east of Bagenalstown. The northern section of this esker is intact, with a woodland community, but much of the rest has calcareous grassland with rare plants. The several pits which are active expose many internal sections of the sediments. In one pit, deeper workings have reached the granite bedrock.

## Site Importance

The site is of National importance and may be proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 7 Quaternary theme of the GSI's IGH Programme. It is already a proposed NHA for its biological interest, despite the working pits, and the existing site boundary is applicable to the geomorphological interest.

## Management/promotion issues

Extensive further quarrying of this feature for sand and gravel poses a threat to the long-term integrity of the site. The site offers considerable opportunity for educational case study approaches to raise awareness of the competing interests involved in such sites.



Top left: the intact northern section of the esker.

Top right: a view along the esker from middle to north.

Left: deeper workings have removed gravel to granite bedrock.

# BALLYMOON ESKER, BAGENALSTOWN

