

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE

Doonaha

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Loop Head

NEAREST TOWN

Doonaha

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

Clare 66

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

088875 153100 = Q 889 531

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

63

1/2 inch Sheet No.

17

Outline Site Description

Coastal exposures along about 3km of coast.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Namurian sandstones, siltstones and shales of the Gull Island Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The succession comprises micaceous sandstones, siltstones and shales. Of importance at this site are the trace fossils preserved in the Upper Carboniferous, Namurian rocks. These starfish traces represent the only Namurian starfish traces in Ireland. Two specimens are known and are preserved on the upper surface of a slab of micaceous siltstone, in which the impressions of the lower surface of the overlying slab are preserved. They are the only fossils found in this otherwise barren sequence of sandstones and siltstones.

The rocks are part of the Gull Island Formation, which includes the Fisherstreet Slide at its base. The presence of sand volcanoes at Doonaha indicates similar evidence of sedimentary instability. However, there are many other sedimentary and structural features of interest easily visible in the exposures.

Site Importance

The site is of County Geological Site importance and may be proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 3 Carboniferous-Pliocene Palaeontology theme of the GSI's IGH Programme or under IGH9 Upper Carboniferous and Permian theme.

Management/promotion issues

Access to the rocks is easy with parking for the small beaches. Some explanatory material such as panel would be useful for public understanding.



Doonaha

