

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE

Loop Head

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Kilbaha North, Kilbaha South

NEAREST TOWN

Kilbaha

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

71, 72

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

069300 147390 = Q693 474

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

63

1/2 inch Sheet No. 17

Outline Site Description

Coastal cliffs section.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Upper Carboniferous (Namurian) sandstones and shales of the Ross Sandstone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The rocks between Loop Head and Ross village represent the type section of the Upper Carboniferous Ross Sandstone Formation. This formation consists of alternating, parallel-bedded sandstones and dark shales. Sedimentary structures such as scouring and channeling can be seen as well as flute, groove and rill casts. Some sand-filled channels are up to 10m deep and 100m wide. These rocks were probably deposited in a deep-marine trough or sub-marine fan where occasional turbidites deposited sandstones. At Loop Head and along the coast many fold structures can be seen in the cliffs. These rocks were folded towards the end of the Carboniferous by a period of mountain building called the Variscan Orogeny. There are numerous features of coastal erosion, such as arches, stacks, storm beaches, blowholes and cliff patterns totally influenced by the geological structures.

Site Importance

This site is of National importance and may be proposed as an NHA under the IGH 9 Upper Carboniferous and Permian theme of the GSI's IGH programme.

Management/promotion issues

No apparent access problems. Site already attracts many tourists.



35'

