

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE

Rineanna Point, Shannon Estuary

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Rineanna North

NEAREST TOWN

Shannon

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

Clare 60, 61

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

134600 159800 = R346 598

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

64

1/2 inch Sheet No. 17

Outline Site Description

Low exposures along shoreline and coast.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The base of Carboniferous Waulsortian limestone strata.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The base of Carboniferous Waulsortian limestone is exposed along strike on a shore section on the southern shore of Rineanna Point, comparable to the Deel River section on the opposite side of the Shannon in Limerick. Only a thin sequence is exposed as it is very low lying ground. The limestone is heavily karstified, with karren and kamenitza (solution pits).

Site Importance

This site is of County Geological Site importance, but may be proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 8 Lower Carboniferous theme of the GSI's IGH Programme, after comparison with other similar basal Waulsortian sections.

Management/promotion issues

The natural coastal exposures are accessible by easy walking westward around the shoreline from the end of the road (at NGR R355 600) although it necessitates crossing a farmyard. Other parts of the coastal path are probably on private land rather than foreshore. As the site is directly under the Shannon Airport flight path, there is unlikely to be any development proposal directly affecting this site. Promotion for non-specialists is not necessarily recommended other than as a brief description or explanation in the context of locally developed walking or area guides.



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