

# CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

**NAME OF SITE**

Spanish Point

Other names used for site

**TOWNLAND(S)**

Breaffy South, Leagard South

**NEAREST TOWN**

Milltown Malbay

**SIX INCH MAP NUMBER**

30

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE**

102300 178500 = R023 785

**1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER**

57

1/2 inch Sheet No. 17

**Outline Site Description**

Coastal section – foreshore exposures

**Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

Upper Carboniferous (Namurian) sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Central Clare Group.

**Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The coastal section at Spanish Point consists of well-bedded sandstones, siltstones and mudstones of the Upper Carboniferous (Namurian) Central Clare Group. Sedimentary structures are well preserved here and include cross-bedding, cross-laminations and symmetrical wave ripples. Some of the thicker sandstone units have undergone segmentation, or boudinage, as a result of the extensional forces exerted on the limbs of folds during the Variscan Orogeny. A marine band is present on the north side of the Spanish Point bay, with a prominent palaeosol horizon 2.5m below it stratigraphically, with rootlets, dessication cracks etc. This represents a higher ground area between deltaic channels, exposed above water when the sediments were accumulating.

**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**

None known



## Spanish Point

