

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Bantry Drumlins		
Other names used for site	Bantry Bay Drumlins		
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary		
TOWNLAND(S)	Too many to mention ... the field covers approx. 15 x 5 km		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Bantry		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	105, 106, 117, 118, 119		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	501300E 551600N (centre of site)		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	85	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	24
GIS CODE	CK018		

Outline Site Description

This field of subglacial bedforms, which are features formed under the base of an ice sheet, includes a small, discrete cluster of hill features occupying the wide coastal embayment which hosts the town of Bantry. The field covers an area of 15 by 5 km, and includes approximately 75 hills.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The drumlins and circular bedforms are formed, in the majority of cases, on Lower Carboniferous limestone and mudstone, but the higher streamlined bedrock forms have formed on Upper Devonian sandstone. The features themselves are Quaternary in age, having been deposited at the base of the ice sheet moving southwestwards into Bantry Bay, towards the end of the last Ice Age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Bantry drumlins cover a discrete, lowland area around Bantry Bay. The field of bedforms forms a southwestern outlier, and the southwestern edge, of the extensive and widespread bedform field that covers just under half of the island of Ireland. The drumlins around Bantry are the only such bedform features in all of Cork.

The field is also unusual in a countrywide context in that, in such a small area, there is a huge variety and size range of subglacial bedform features. These range from small, individual drumlins around 300 m in length and 15 m in height, to high, composite circular bedforms up to 1 km long and 50 m high, and long streamlined bedrock forms up to 2 km long.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is the southwestern end of the wide swathe of subglacial bedform features that dominate the lowlands across Ireland and is important for its internal diversity and form with respect to subglacial bedform features.

Management/promotion issues

This is an excellent site in terms of macro-scale Quaternary subglacial geomorphology. The features as a whole are too large to define as a single site with a specific boundary, as would be required for NHA status. However the landscape itself is particularly noteworthy and should be mentioned as unique in landscape elements within the Cork County Development Plan, and in Landscape Characterisation. A colour leaflet on 'The Drumlins of Bantry Bay' could be produced.



The bedforms at Bantry, viewed from Knockboolteenagh to the west of the town.



The town cemetery at Abbey, on the side of one of the features.



Reenonour and Reenbeg Points to the north of the town, are drumlins poking into Bantry Bay.



A high, steep sided circular subglacial bedform at the northern side of the bay at Ardnamanagh.

