

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Bere Island		
Other names used for site	Bear Island		
IGH THEME	IGH10 Devonian		
TOWNLAND(S)	Derrycreeveen		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Ballynakilla		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	128		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	467180E 542870N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	84	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	24
GIS CODE	CK022		

Outline Site Description

Large outcrops interspersed with heathland on hillside sloping down to high sea cliffs.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock comprises Upper Devonian sandstone and mudstone of the Old Head Sandstone Formation and its uppermost member, the Bere Island Member.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Bere Island lies on the southern limb of the anticline that forms the upland core of the Beara peninsula. The site provides excellent exposure of cross-bedded sandstone of the Upper Devonian Old Head Sandstone Formation. Bedrock in the southern part of the island is ascribed to the Bere Island Member, the uppermost part of the Old Head Sandstone Formation, that is distinguished by the presence of fossil-rich mudstone beds and limestone lenses. This site incorporates the type locality for the Bere Island Member.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The site is the type locality for the Bere Island Member of the Old Head Sandstone Formation.

Management/promotion issues

The site is within the Beara Peninsula SPA. Excellent exposures of both formation and member are readily accessible along the Beara Way walking route on the western side of the island. The island has a Wild Atlantic Way signboard and stop beside the ferry harbour at Derrycreeveen but it has no information about the geology of the island. Various walking routes are highlights of stays on the island and could present opportunities for imparting information about the island's geology, as might the island's Heritage and Information Centre near Ballynakilla Bridge.



General view northwards from central part of site of outcrops of grey sandstones and purple sandstones of the Gun Point Formation. Rocks of the Old Head Sandstone Formation crop out below the cliffs in the background.



Steeply-dipping sandstone beds of the Old Head Sandstone Formation, displaying large-scale cross-bedding.



Close-up of cross-bedded sandstone beds (P1) of the Old Head Sandstone Formation.



Mudstone of the Bere Island Member just above the contact with the Old Head Sandstone Formation.



Dark grey mudstone of the Bere Island Member.

