

## CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Coomhola River</b>		
Other names used for site	(East) Glengarriff Harbour to Ardnamanna Point		
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH8 Lower Carboniferous</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Corryleary, Corrycommane, Snave, Drumduff West, Dromkeal</b>		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Ballylickey</b>		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>105</b>		
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>499640E 554340N (Snave)</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>GIS CODE</b>	<b>CK037</b>		

### **Outline Site Description**

Coastal, roadside and river sections at the head of Bantry Bay.

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

Bedrock comprises a Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) mudstone and sandstone of the Kinsale Formation and mudstone of the Reenydonagan Formation.

### **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

Geological Survey Ireland's report to accompany Sheet 24 West Cork (2002) makes reference to a partially accessible section of Devonian-to-Carboniferous stratigraphy between East Glengarriff Harbour and Ardnamanna Point. The Coomhola site serves as a more accessible alternative that exhibits the conformable stratigraphical sequence of Carboniferous lithologies represented in the East Glengarriff Harbour to Ardnamanna Point section. The lithologies along the Coomhola River record changing depositional environments from shallow tidally-influenced marine conditions (Devonian Old Head Sandstone Formation), through the Devonian-Carboniferous transition, to shallow offshore low-energy marine conditions (Castle Slate Member), to intertidal settings (Ardaturrish Member), to a shallow marine environment (Reenagough Member). Overall, these rocks provide a record of an encroaching sea flooding onto a terrestrial environment during late Devonian-early Carboniferous times. Old Head Sandstone Formation rocks are exposed north of Coomhola Bridge. Rocks of the Kinsale Formation Ardaturrish Member, Reenagough Member, Ardnamanagh Member are exposed and accessible between Coomhola Bridge and Snave Bridge. Reenydonagan Formation mudstone is best seen at Snave and around Eagle Point.

### **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

This is an important County Geological Site as it displays the full stratigraphical sequence that records the transition from terrestrial red-beds to tidal and marine sediments. The sequence plays a key role in understanding of depositional environments in the South Munster Basin during Upper Devonian and Lower Carboniferous times.

### **Management/promotion issues**

The site includes coastal, river and roadside sections. Appropriate care should be taken if visiting these locations. The geological heritage of the Beara peninsula and Bantry Bay area is suitable for public promotion at Snave beach or Coomhola Bridge. The site is of value for geological field research.



Ardaturrish Member rocks at Coomhola Bridge.



Ardnamanagh Member outcrop by road to the north of Snave Bridge.



Reengough Member outcrop by road between Snave Bridge and Coomhola Bridge.



Reenydonagan Formation mudstone at Snave. Coomhola N71 bridge in background.

