

# DUBLIN CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	River Dodder
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	IGH 8 Lower Carboniferous, IGH 14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Clonskeagh, Donnybrook East, Roebuck
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	Donnybrook
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	22
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	717510E 731025N (weir in river)
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	50
<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO:</b>	16

## Outline Site Description

A weir built on natural exposures of thick limestone beds in the channel of the River Dodder.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The beds of limestone are of Carboniferous age, from approximately 340 million years ago.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Natural exposures of Carboniferous limestone within Dublin City are quite rare. Even man-made exposures such as quarries are uncommon. There was one adjacent to this site behind the cottages on Beaver Row but it is not apparent now. A much larger quarry a short distance away at the Donnybrook end of Beaver Row is now occupied by a Dublin Bus garage (for example). The natural rib of rock which has been built up slightly to create a weir has caused a deflection of the river and some bank steepening below Beaver Row, on the downstream side, with a cliff of dipping limestone beds visible from the opposite bank.

The limestone beds themselves are dipping at around 30 degrees to the south east. They are up to around a metre thick. When the river is in low flow it is possible to access them from the Riverside Walk, but the river responds rapidly to rain and the rocks can be nearly completely obscured by water.

## Site Importance - County Geological Site

Within the constraints of Dublin City's sparsely visible geology, this is a valuable resource deserving of CGS recognition.

## Management/promotion issues

There is an existing short and local riverside walk, which allows a visitor to get very close to the rocks. It could perhaps be enhanced by an explanatory sign, especially if it was done within the context of a wider riverside trail along the Dodder, and featured in promotional media for such a project. It has good educational potential for physical geography students if resource materials were made available to local teachers.



The site viewed from Beaver Row.



Thick beds of natural limestone have formed a barrier to the river flow, built up as a weir.



The beds on the east bank are apparently dipping to the right but are also dipping away from the viewer.





