

FINGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Skerries to Rush
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME:	IGH 3, 8 (Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology, Lower Carboniferous)
TOWNLAND(S)	Numerous Townlands
NEAREST TOWN	Skerries, Loughshinny, Rush
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	5, 8
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	326700 258600 to 326600 253700 = O 267 586 to O 266 537
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	43 1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description

Coastal cliff and foreshore section.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Visean) limestone, shale and conglomerate.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Six geological formations make up this impressive Lower Carboniferous succession between Skerries and Rush. They are seen in chronological order from the youngest, the Holmpatrick Formation, in the north to the oldest, the Tober Colleen Formation, in the south. Most of these formations are structurally deformed; at Loughshinny they have a severe zigzag appearance known as chevron folding. The section includes an important conglomerate turbidite sequence and a fossil locality.

Site Importance

The foreshore and cliff sections along the Rush-Loughshinny-Skerries area represents one of the best continuous successions of Lower Carboniferous rocks in Ireland and Britain, illustrating many sedimentary structures, tectonic structures and fauna. Of national and potentially international importance, this site is promoted here as a County Geological Site, but will be proposed as an NHA.

Management/promotion issues

A small part of this site (northern end) is an existing pNHA (Loughshinny Coast 2000). Much of this coastal section is backed by high cliffs and not easily accessible. The most accessible areas which are suitable for general promotion are located around the towns of Rush, Loughshinny and just south of Skerries where there are walkable beaches.



Top left: En echelon quartz veins within the Loughshinny Formation (an indicator of structural deformation).
Middle: Conglomerate outcrop within the Rush Conglomerate Formation.
Right: Typical view of Skerries to Rush coastal cliff section.
Left: Impressive large scale chevron folds at Loughshinny (just south of the pier).

Skerries to Rush

