

DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ballyshannon
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Knader
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Ballyshannon
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	107
ITM CO-ORDINATES	589911E, 861321N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER: 16	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NOS. 3, 4
GIS Code DL001	

Outline Site Description

The site comprises two heavily overgrown road-side cuttings on either side of the L454 road that runs along the north shore of Assaroe Lake between Ballyshannon and Belleek.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Dolomitic conglomerate at the base of the Lower Carboniferous Ballyshannon Limestone Formation lies unconformably on rocks of the Precambrian Sliswood Division (Lough Derg inlier).

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site is of interest because the base of the Ballyshannon Limestone Formation is exposed where it lies unconformably on top of the Precambrian Sliswood Division (Lough Derg inlier).

Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended as Geological NHA

This site is important primarily because it illustrates the unconformable contact between the base of the Ballyshannon Limestone Formation and the Precambrian succession. It also shows part of the facies variation that characterises the marine transgression that led ultimately to the deposition of the marine limestones of the Ballyshannon Limestone Formation. At this site the rocks unconformably overlying the Sliswood Division are dolomitic conglomerates, part of a marginal or restricted marine facies that differed from the fully marine facies established elsewhere in Donegal at the base of the Ballyshannon Limestone Formation. Though of a restricted marine facies, the marine origin of these rocks has been demonstrated at this site by the previously reported presence of *Syringopora*, a colonial coral, about one metre above the unconformity. This site is of scientific interest and has a regional significance.

Management/promotion issues

There are two sections along the road where the Ballyshannon Limestone Formation and Sliswood Division rocks are exposed together. The original site displaying the unconformity is the westernmost site (see map), lying on the north side of the road. A second section is further east, on the south side of the road. Both sections are heavily overgrown, particularly the original, western site which is largely obscured by thick vegetation. The eastern site is more accessible but is tree-covered and poorly lit. Both exposures are immediately beside the road which, though minor, is nevertheless well-trafficked.



Western road cutting, heavily overgrown (view to east).



Eastern road cutting (view to east).



Eastern exposure: basal Carboniferous dolomitic conglomerate above Precambrian psammite.

