

DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Kildoney Point
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous
TOWNLAND(S)	Kildoney Glebe
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Ballyshannon
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	106
ITM CO-ORDINATES	582642E, 864019N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER: 11	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NOS. 3, 4
GIS Code DL017	

Outline Site Description

This is a coastal section, incorporating low cliffs above a foreshore that comprises a wave-cut platform and stony beach.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks are part of the Lower Carboniferous Mullaghmore Sandstone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The outcrop contains thick beds of massive sandstone that show large-scale deltaic sedimentary structures including cross-bedding and channels. Channels over a metre wide can be seen cutting into thinly-bedded, finer-grained sediments below the sandstone units. Contacts between individual sandstone units are typically erosional in nature, with underlying beds cut out by overlying beds. Shale interbeds are common with some reported to contain thin carbonaceous (coal) layers. Layers containing fossiliferous plant fragments have also been recorded at this site.

Site Importance: County Geological Site

The Mullaghmore Sandstone type locality is about 13 km southwest of Kildoney Point at Mullaghmore in County Sligo. In Donegal the Mullaghmore Sandstone Formation has been referred to as the Kildoney-Mountcharles Sandstone. This site is important in Donegal because it is the best coastal exposure of this formation in the county, displaying excellent, readily accessible exposures with an abundance of sedimentary structures.

Management/promotion issues

The site is on the foreshore below low cliffs at Kildoney Point. The local community has installed stiles and marked posts to create a cliff-top walkway that begins at the hotel at Creevy Pier (marked as Bunatrahon Pier on OS maps), 1km to the north. This walk presents an obvious opportunity for installation of a signboard, either at the pier or preferably on the cliff-top overlooking the main outcrop at Kildoney Point itself, outlining the geology and features to be observed. There are no evident threats to the site. More than half of the site (southern end) lies within the Erne Estuary/Finner Dunes proposed NHA (00139).



Kildoney Point: view southwest from northern part of site.



Kildoney Point: thick massive deltaic sandstones with curved, erosion-surface bedding contacts; reddish shale bed also visible.



Kildoney Point: massive sandstone filling channel (dashed line shows base) in thinly-bedded sandstone/shale unit.

