GALWAY CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	**Doughiska N6 Road Cut**
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	**IGH8 Lower Carboniferous**
TOWNLAND(S)	**Doughiska**
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	**Galway**
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	**82**
ITM CO-ORDINATES	**535060E 726750N**
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 46	**GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 14**
GISCODE	**GC001**

Outline Site Description
A one kilometre long road cut section on the N6 dual-carriageway.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
The road section is cut into Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) pale grey limestone of the Burren Formation, dated at around 330 million years old.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
The limestone visible in the road cut exposures along this eastern section of the N6 (changes to the M6 motorway at Junction 19, some 3km to the east. The exposed faces expose beds of Burren Formation limestone and several thin, pale-coloured palaeosol (clay wayboard) layer. Groundwater seepage from the palaeosol layers causes staining on the limestone faces. The limestone beds generally dip gently to the west. The bedrock is overlain by a shallow covering of approximately 1m - 2m depth of glacial till subsoil, which was deposited by the last ice sheet to cover the area. The bedrock has been planed along a clear erosive boundary while this material was being deposited. Calcite-flourite veins occur along sections of the road cut walls. Minor amounts of galena, sphalerite and chalcopyrite have also been identified in these veins.

Site Importance – County Geological Site
This section is a good representative exposure of near-horizontal Burren Formation limestone strata with interbedded palaeosol (clay wayboard) layers, and is an important County Geological Site.

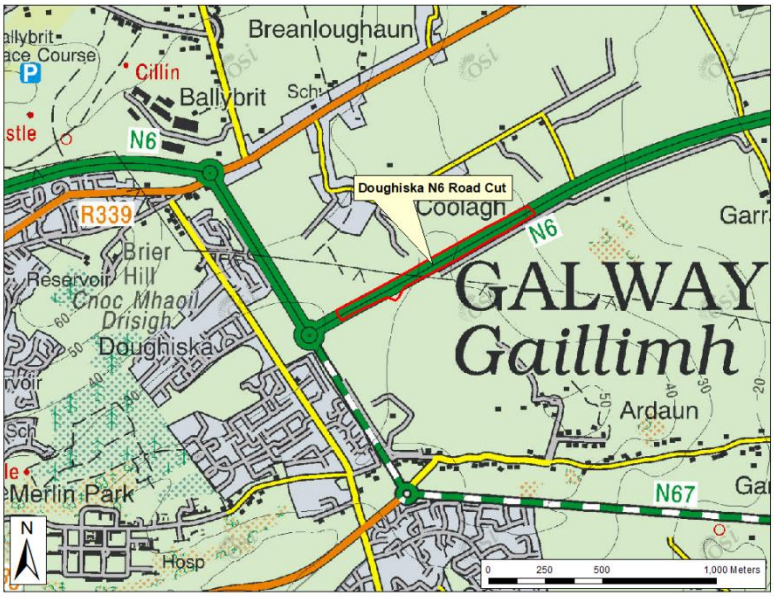
Management/promotion issues
The exposures are in road cuttings and are completely unsuitable for any general public visits because it is on a busy dual carriageway. The exposures provide thousands of weekly passing motorists with a rare 'window' into the limestone strata that underlie the eastern parts of Galway City and county, and the central lowlands of Ireland. Some localised management to keep the rock faces clear of vegetation would preserve this open 'window' into the limestone foundation in this region of County Galway.

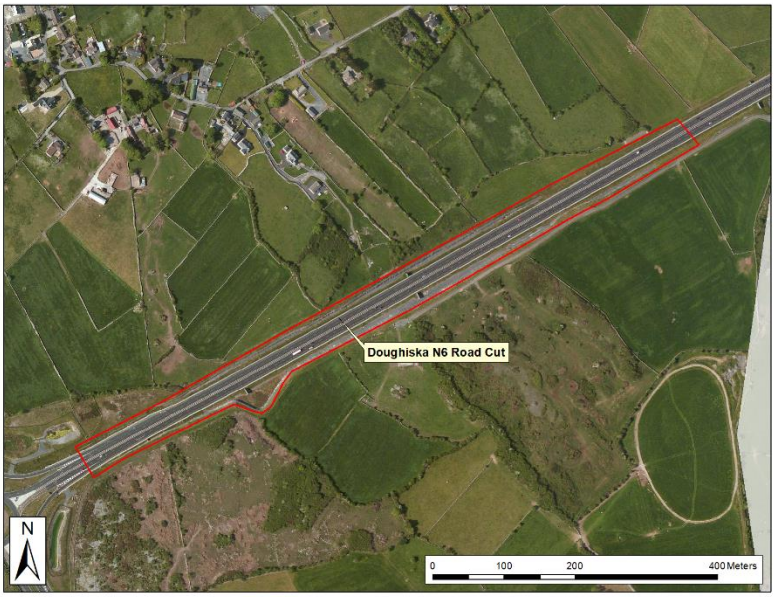
View east along N6 roadcut at Doughiska.

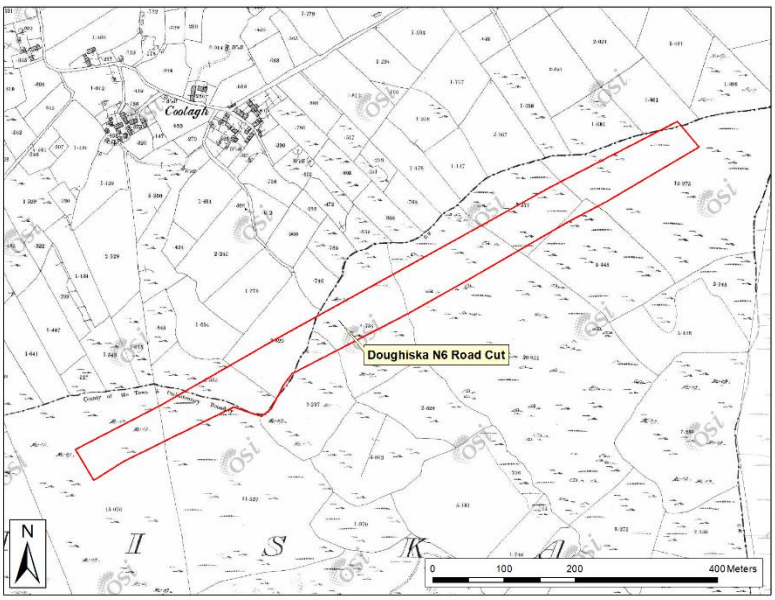
Limestone exposures on north side of road.

Palaeosol layer staining lower limestone faces.

Limestone ‘amphitheatre’ on south side of N6 road, view towards Doughiska roundabout.







Hennessy et al., 2020. Geological Survey Ireland.