

LOUTH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Port Raised Beach
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH13 Coastal geomorphology
TOWNLAND(S)	Dunany, Mitchelstown, Draghanstown, Corstown, Port, Lurganboy, Nicholastown, Painestown, Labanstown, Cruisetown, Reynoldstown
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Clogherhead
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	19
ITM CO-ORDINATES	713850E 787500N (centre of feature)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	36 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 13

Outline Site Description

The Port Raised Beach is a wide, flat-topped feature adjacent to the shoreline between Clogherhead and Dunany Point, which extends inland up to two kilometres. The feature is a beach deposited in the locality when sea level was higher than it is today.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The feature was formed at the end of the last glaciation and is therefore Quaternary in age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The beach is exceptionally flat-topped and has no real relief, excepting occasional low swales which are themselves probably individual beach features. The beach has been cut into till which was deposited earlier in glaciation.

Exposure of the raised beach, in low cliffs along the modern beach, shows that the feature is comprised of exceptionally well bedded and sorted sands and gravels, which are unconsolidated and easily eroded.

Raised beaches such as this have been raised above the modern shoreline by a relative fall in sea level.

The raised beach at Port contains some ice-wedge casts, where sediment has in-filled deformation structures (involutions) in the gravels caused by intense freezing just after glaciation, when an ice mass still lay further to the north in Ireland.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

The beach is a textbook locality for the recognition of coastal emergence and a fall in relative sea level. The feature is probably the widest raised beach in Ireland.

Management/promotion issues

The location of the feature means it is easily accessible, and the modern beaches at Port, Lurganboy and Cruisetown are popular recreational features. Information on the feature could be provided on some of the information boards at Port, which already explain the associated habitats, flora and fauna. The geological formation of the feature could be highlighted in future in literature produced on the area around Port and Clogherhead.



A view of the flat-topped form of the Port Raised Beach, looking north towards Dunany Point.



The widest part of the Port Raised Beach, between Port and Clogherhead.



