

## LEITRIM - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Corry Shore</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH3 Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology, IGH8 Lower Carboniferous</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Corry</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Drumkeeran</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>5955515E 823420N (centre of outcrop)</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 26</b>	<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 7</b>
<b>GIS CODE LM006</b>	

### Outline Site Description

Rocks exposed along about 200 m of the northern shore of Lough Allen comprise the site.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks exposed on a small length of Corry Shore are part of the Carraun Shale Formation. The formation is of Mississippian (Dinantian, Lower Carboniferous) age, and is part of the Leitrim Group.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Most of the bedrock stratigraphy mapped in Leitrim is best seen in river or stream sections on hillsides, and correlations of the different rock units are made between these various sections of natural exposures. At Corry Shore along the north shore of Lough Allen, a small but important section is exposed that contributes to the overall understanding of the rock stratigraphy in the region. There are five recognised named members within the Carraun Shale Formation, the lowest of which is the Derreens Limestone Member. This is exposed at Corry Shore. The underlying Bellavalley Formation may be exposed in the eastern end of the site, but vegetation is encroaching onto the lake shore.

A detailed study in 2000 by James Buckman and Alastair Ruffell of that 10-15cm thick bed which makes up the Carraun Shale Formation at Corry Shore showed it is an important palaeoecological resource. It represents a condensed deposit, with borings, encrusting organisms, reworked fossils and much biogenic reworking of the bed (animal burrows and trails). A condensed section occurs where clastic sedimentation rates are low during a marine transgression, resulting in preferential accumulation of the shells of fauna. The study also correlated the bed-by-bed detail with analysis of the geochemistry of each bed.

### Site Importance – County Geological Site

The unusual palaeoecology of the Derreens Limestone Member, along with the stratigraphical correlation data provided by the lake shore section, make this site very worthy of County Geological Site status.

### Management/promotion issues

This section of lake shoreline is at Corry Strand, popular with visitors. The site is likely to be of interest mainly to geologists and does not require further promotion.



The yellow bed breaking up into blocks is the Derreens Limestone Member of the Carraun Shale Formation, exposed on Corry Shore.



The shale beds of the Carraun Shale Formation looking east along the Corry Shore section, with a very minor fault as the small step in the platform in the middle distance.



