

NORTH DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Moville to Greencastle
Other names used for site	Moville Shore Walk, Moville to Inishowen Head
IGH THEME	IGH5 Precambrian
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballynally, Carnagarve, Ballybrack, Drumaweer, Eleven Ballyboes, Carrowhugh, Carrowtrasna, Stroove
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Moville
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	13, 21, 22
ITM CO-ORDINATES	664600E 939900N (Greencastle Harbour)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 3	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 1
GIS Code ND016	

Outline Site Description

A 4km coastal section between Moville and Greencastle on the NW shores of Lough Foyle comprising easy-to-access foreshore outcrops alongside a scenic pedestrian footpath.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The exposed bedrock along the shore comprises two Dalradian age (Southern Highland Group) formations of (1) pelite schist and grits and (2) green epidotic schist and grits. Intermittent beaches along the section have formed by the in-washing of sands and shelly material from the sea and Lough Foyle.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Proceeding north from the small parking area and beach at Carnagarve (c. half way between Moville and Greencastle), there is a transition from brown and grey coloured bedrock (Inishowen Head Grits and Phyllites) to green coloured coarse grits and flaggy slates (Greencastle Green Beds). The green colouring is from epidote, chlorite and green biotite minerals.

The exposures of Southern Highland Group rocks on the foreshore between Moville and Greencastle provide exceptional preservation of sedimentary and tectonic features in low grade (Greenschist) metamorphic rocks.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

This site comprises almost continuous easy-to-access bedrock along a well maintained coastal footpath, and beside a relatively low energy coastal section. The site represents a valuable teaching and field survey site for students. The site merits designation as a NHA.

Management/promotion issues

The scenic walkway is an ideal location along which one or two information panels could be erected to inform locals and visitors alike of the geological and glacial heritage of this part of Donegal.



Shore walk sign at seaside park, Moville.



Greencastle Green Beds on shore at Moville.



Coastline to the northeast of Moville Harbour, looking northeast along Lough Foyle shore.



View from Carnagarve SW towards Moville along shore walk.



Carnagarve/Ballybrack car park - halfway point along shore walk.



Green beds between Carnagarve and Glenburnie looking east across Lough Foyle.

