

SLIGO - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Streedagh Point		
Other names used for site			
TOWNLAND(S)	Streedagh		
NEAREST TOWN	Grange		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	2, 5		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	163000 351000 = G 63 51		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	16	1/2 inch Sheet No.	7

Outline Site Description

Rock exposures on a coastal platform.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Early Carboniferous Limestone (from the Asbian Stage)

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Streedagh Point has spectacular exposure of the Glencar Limestone Formation consisting of thinly bedded dark grey muddy limestones, crinoidal limestones, shales and mudstones. These rocks were deposited in warm, shallow seas during the Carboniferous. There is an abundance of exceptionally preserved fossils at this site including corals, bryozoa, brachiopods, crinoids and foraminifera. Some of the corals found here indicate that the rocks were deposited during the Asbian (around 339 million years ago). It is very similar to Serpent Rock at Ballyconnell, but the faunas show variation and the preservation style is different.

The coastal geomorphology of Streedagh Point is also of importance; a lagoon and barrier strand are on the draft candidate site list of the Coastal Geomorphology Theme, IGH13 [as of Jan 2004].

Site Importance

The site is of National importance and is to be proposed for NHA designation under the IGH3 Carboniferous - Pliocene Palaeontology theme and may be incorporated into a larger site including the lagoon and dune barrier if these are selected under the IGH13 Coastal Geomorphology theme of the GSI's IGH Programme.

Management/promotion issues

Sea-erosion is unavoidable but prevention of commercial fossil collecting needs to be maintained. A code of conduct and information panels could be provided.



A typical colonial coral at Streedagh Point, about 50cm across.

Photo: Matthew Parkes



A view of the barrier strand and lagoon at Streedagh.

Photo: Matthew Parkes

Streedagh Point

