

# WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Copper Coast – Bunmahon Head</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH4 Cambrian – Silurian, IGH10 Devonian</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Templeyvrick</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	<b>Bunmahon</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>Waterford 24</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>242755 98170</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>82</b> <b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b> <b>22</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

The site comprises a rocky headland and Trawnamoe beach to the west.

## **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

The rocks of Bunmahon headland are Devonian age sandstones and conglomerates. The adjacent rocks in the bay to the west are Ordovician volcanic and sedimentary rocks.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

Mining heritage is highly visible in the bay with small adits cut into the rocks. The volcanic lavas at the western end of the Trawnamoe beach show very interesting features, which are called peperitic intrusion. When andesite lava was being injected into wet sediments, it broke up into rounded blobs and was extensively altered by hot fluids.

The headland of Bunmahon Head is composed of Devonian age red sandstones and conglomerates. These are tilted to vertical and form impressive cliffs. A fault runs to the west of the headland separating them from the Ordovician rocks.

## **Site Importance**

The site is part of the complex of sites along the Copper Coast, which collectively are of national importance and which are already part of a proposed NHA (Ballyvoyle Head to Tramore No 1693).

## **Management/promotion issues**

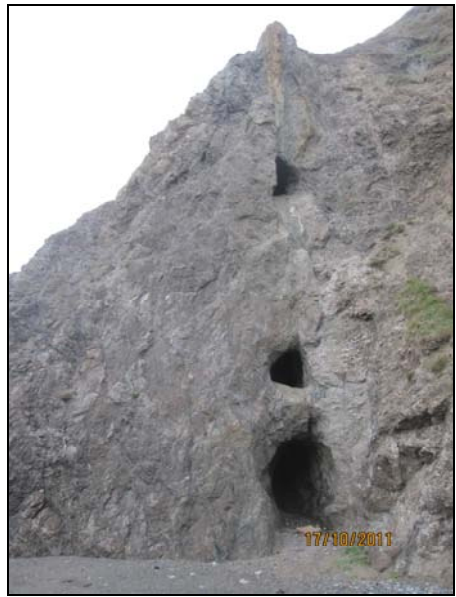
There is reasonable access via a cliff top track from Bunmahon, and a path onto the headland or down into the bay via a grassy slope. The remote feel of this place is perhaps best left untouched by explanatory panels, but the clifftop viewpoint into the bay or the car park at the end of the rough track would be the place to install any such interpretation or explanation.



A panorama view of Trawnamoe Bay and Bunmahon Head.



Peperites at western end of Trawnamoe.



Mine adits in Trawnamoe.



A view of Bunmahon Head from the top of the cliff above Trawnamoe.

