WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	**Copper Coast – Dunabrattin Head**		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	**IGH4 Cambrian – Silurian,** **IGH13 Coastal Geomorphology**		
TOWNLAND(S)	**Dunabrattin**		
NEAREST TOWN	**Bunmahon**		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	**Waterford 25**		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	**247415 98139**		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	82	**1/2 inch Sheet No.**	22

Outline Site Description
The site comprises coastal cliffs and a headland.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
The rocks at Dunabrattin Head are all Ordovician in age from about 460 million years ago. Rocks of the Tramore Limestone Formation forms the headland itself.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
Most of the headland itself is comprised of rocks of the Tramore Limestone Formation, which is mostly actually composed of calcareous mudstones and siltstones, rather than pure limestone. The rocks here have yielded a collection of fossils, particularly trilobites, for collectors in the 19th century, such as those of the Geological Survey of Ireland. The headland is the type locality for one trilobite species, *Illaenus bowmanni.*

Inland, the rocks pass up into tuffs and mudstones and other sedimentary rocks. They show sedimentary features which indicate that there were earthquakes during the time they were being deposited. There is also a good sea arch eroded in the rocks to the east of the headland.

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
Access via the cliff top path is not complete or easy, due to cliff collapses and narrow paths, so general promotion is probably not advisable. Safe access to fossiliferous rocks is very limited and there is very little sea level accessibility, although low tide is essential for some reported access from the Boat Strand Harbour.

The enrolled trilobite *Illaenus bowmanni*, first described from Dunabrattin Head. The animal is enrolled – a protection measure. Specimen is GSI:F00876, the holotype, and is approximately 7cm long.

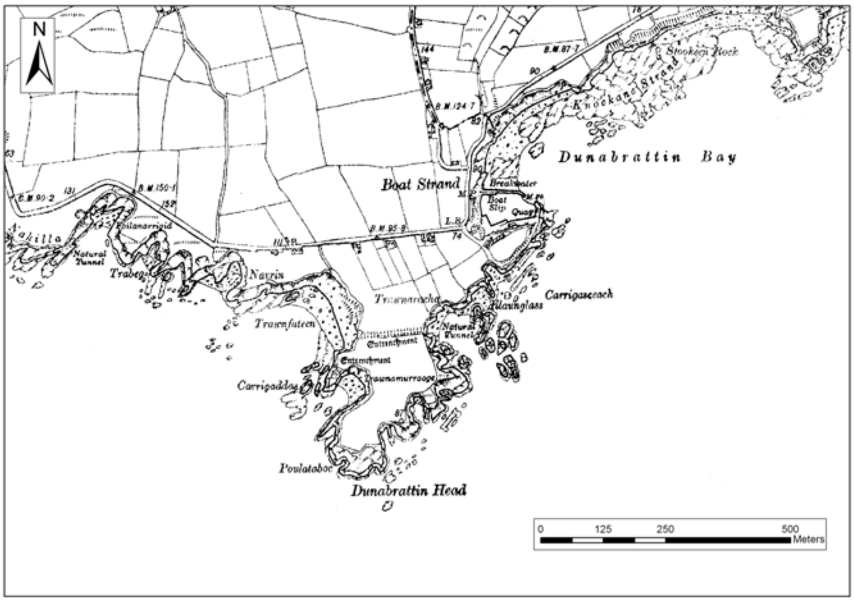
Panorama view of Dunabrattin Head.

Sea arch to the east of Dunabrattin Head.

Dipping limestone beds in cliff section on Dunabrattin Head.

Dunabrattin Head
Bunmahon Bay
Cuan Bhunmachan
Dunabrattin Bay
Cuan Dhún na mBreatan
Dunabrattin Head
Ceann Dhún mBreatan
Bunmahon
Bun Machan
Annestown
Bun Abha
Knockmahon
Kilmurrin
Dunabrattin
Knockane
Ballyhessdon
Woodstown
Lissaviron
Kilsteague
Kilbeg
Rathquage
Ballingarry
Kilcannon
Dunhill
Dún Aill
98
97
99

N
Dunabrattin Head
Site Extent
0
125
250
500
Meters



N
Dunabrattin Bay
Boat Strand
Knockane Strand
Breakwater
Boat Slip
Quay
Natural Tunnel
Traben
Navrin
Trawnfateen
Carrigaseeach
Entrenchment
Carrigaddy
Poulatobac
Dunabrattin Head
0
125
250
500
Meters