

## WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Tramore Burrow</b>
Other names used for site	Tramore Spit
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH13 Coastal geomorphology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Tramore Burrow</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	<b>Tramore</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>Waterford 27 and28</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>260650 100575</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>76                      1/2 inch Sheet No.    22</b>

### **Outline Site Description**

The Tramore Burrow is a long, wide sand spit, which has formed across the mouth of Tramore Harbour. The Burrow is oriented west-northwest to east-southeast and is just under four kilometres long.

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

The feature has been formed in the Holocene Period since the last glaciation, and is comprised of unconsolidated sand sediment only.

### **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

Spits form as a result of deposition by longshore drift, which is the movement of sand along the coast by the waves. The spit is formed when the sand material that is being carried by the waves gets deposited due to a loss of the waves energy, because of the river water emerging in the estuary at the north of the bay slows it down. As time progresses, the deposited material has formed a spit.

The spit has been the result of wind erosion and deposition over the millennia since the Ice Age and several large dunes have formed across it. The highest of these dunes is almost 30m high, and is therefore one of the highest dunes in the country.

### **Site Importance**

The spit is one of the longest in the country and the associated beach, dune and backstrand features, make this a textbook locality for the recognition of coastal deposition features. It is of County Geological Site importance. It may be considered as of national importance once comparisons are made with similar sites across the country. It is already part of Tramore Dunes and Backstrand pNHA and SAC 000671.

### **Management/promotion issues**

The location of the features means they are easily accessible, and Tramore is a popular holiday destination, principally for its long beach and associated dune system. The site is owned by Waterford County Council and therefore management for human activity is fully controllable. It should be noted that in geological and geomorphological terms and timescales, landforms such as this are mobile and attempting to control dynamic processes on this scale is practically impossible.



Tramore Burrow, viewed from the road to Brownstown Head.



The highest of the dunes on the spit is up to 30m high.



The spit and beach viewed from the cliff top at the western side of Tramore Bay.



