

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ballycroum Hill
Other names used for site	
TOWNLAND(S)	Ballycroum
NEAREST TOWN	Feakle
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	19
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	154150 188650 = R541 886
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	58 1/2 inch Sheet No. 14

Outline Site Description

Short cliff rock exposure on hill

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The site has Devonian sandstones and conglomerates overlying Silurian siltstones.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The site is an excellent example of an unconformity. Flat lying conglomerate beds are seen overlying the truncated ends of nearly vertical beds of Silurian slaty rocks. The time gap represented is approximately 30 million years, when the Silurian rocks below were transformed from their original oceanic sediments into hard rock, and then folded and tilted to their upright position. They were then subjected to erosion over an extended period, planing off the land surface. The Devonian conglomerates lying above this planed surface are deposits of rivers which occasionally flowed within a largely arid environment of the period.

Site Importance

The site is a County Geological Site for its general interest and visible clear relationships of a fundamental geological phenomenon.

Management/promotion issues

As the site is on commonage hilltop with little activity other than cattle grazing it is not particularly at risk. As it is alongside the East Clare Way, it is easily accessible, by a muddy path across moorland. However, forestry is a threat and if any application is made to afforest the area, an unplanted barrier should be left around the site for people to access and appreciate the site from a moderate distance as well as close up.



Left: an overview of the cliff. Right: a closer view showing the horizontal massive Devonian conglomerates overlying vertical Silurian rocks. The block nearest has fallen down as it became unsupported by erosion of the rocks below.

Ballycroom Hill

