

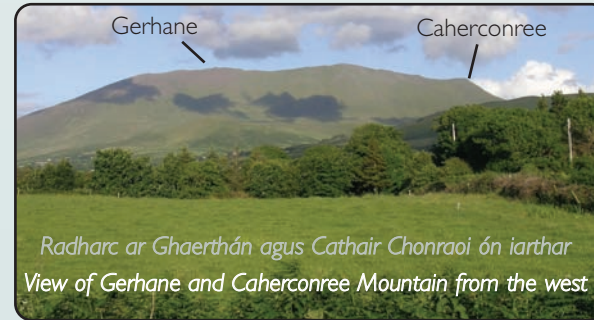
# Geolaíocht Chorca Dhuibhne cois bóthair

# The Roadside Geology of West Kerry



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council

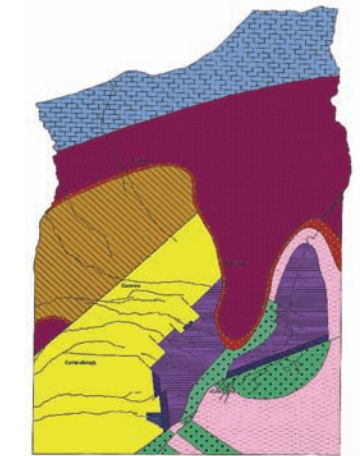
## Iontaisí agus éisc ar Chathair Chonraoi Fossils and faults on Caherconree



Radharc ar Ghaerthán agus Cathair Chonraoi ón iarthar  
View of Gerhane and Caherconree Mountain from the west

Léarscáil gheolaíochta de Chathair Chonraoi agus Gleann na Doire Móire

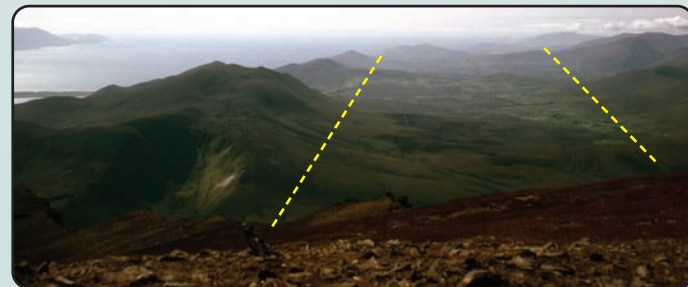
Geological map of Caherconree Mountain and Derrymore Glen



- CARBÓNMHAR CARBONIFEROUS**  
Aolchloch Thrá Lí Tralee Limestone
- DEAVÓNACH DEVONIAN**  
Gaineamhchloch Shliabh Mis Slieve Mish Sandstone
- Comcheirtleán Loch Slait Lough Slait Conglomerate
- Gaineamhchloch Chill Muire Kilmurry Sandstone
- Comcheirtleán Inse Inch Conglomerate
- SIOLÚRACH-DEAVÓNACH SILURIAN-DEVONIAN**  
Gaineamhchloch an Daingin Dingle Sandstones
- SIOLÚRACH SILURIAN**  
Sioltachloch Ghleann na Doire Móire Derrymore Glen Siltstone
- Sioltachlocha Chathair Chonraoi Caherconree Siltstones
- Aolchloch Bhaile Fhionáin Ballynane Limestone
- Sioltachlocha Abhainn an Scáil Annascaul Siltstones

Is cnoc í Cathair Chonraoi go bhfuil baint aici le Cúchulainn. Go geolaíoch tá sí déanta as carraigeacha éagsúla d'aoiseanna difriúla. Sa ghleann oighrithe i nGleann na Doire Móire agus ar thaobh Chathair Chonraoi tá drúidair Siolúracha ar fáil; tá cairóga plúir i gcuid acu. Tá ionlúiteach Abhainn an Scáil sainithe ag éisc (méirscrí nó crega sa tírdhreach). Tá na carraigeacha Deavónacha sáraithe le gaineamhchlocha corcra agus comcheirtleáin garbha, agus tá dúirleoga sheaspair rua agus grianchloiche bainniúla i gceann acu. Forleagtha ar na carraigeacha seo ar fad bhí aolchloch Charbónmhar. Thart ar 300 bliain ó shin bhí an seicheamh seo fillte isteach i ndronnchlaonas nó áirse – na carraigeacha ar an dtaobh thuaidh de Leithinis Chorca Dhuibhne ag cromadh ó thuaidh agus ó dheas sa deisceart.

Caherconree is a mountain associated with Cuchulainn. Geological it is composed of a diversity of rock types of different ages. In the glaciated valley of Derrymore Glen and on the side of Caherconree Silurian sediments are found; some contain trilobites. Faults (or cracks in the landscape) define the boundary of the Annascaul inlier. The Devonian rocks are dominated by purple-coloured sandstones and coarse conglomerates one of which contains red jasper and white quartz cobbles. Overlying all these rocks is Carboniferous limestone. Approximately 300 years ago the sequence was folded into an anticline or arch – the rocks on the northern side of the Dingle Peninsula dip towards the north and towards the south on the southern margin.

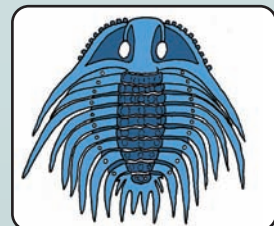


Radharc siar ar Abhainn an Scáil ó bharr Chathair Chonraoi. Taispeánann na línte briste neas-rian na n-éisc sa dhromchla. De réir mar a bhog na héisc tugadh an stráice lámach níos cóngraí dos na haolchloca níos óige ar an dá thaobh. Chruthaigh bogadh na n-éisc critheanna talún 350 go 400 milliúin bliain ó shin. (Grianghraf: C.H. Holland)

View west of towards Annascaul from the summit of Caherconree. The dashed lines show the approximate surface trace of faults. As movement took place on the faults the central strip of older rock was brought adjacent to younger sandstones on either side. Movement on the faults created earthquakes 350 to 400 million years ago. (Photograph courtesy of C.H. Holland).

**CIARÓGA PLÚIR SIOLÚRACHA:** tá na hiontaisí artrapódacha seo caomhnaithe in Aolchloch Bhaile Fhionáin (ag bun ar dheis). Anseo tá an ceann (cephalon) agus an t-eireabal (pygidium) de thrí speiceas difriúil léirithe. Bhí na hiontaisí bainte amach go cúramach ón aolchloch ag an Dr Derek Siveter (Oxford) a chuir na hiontaisí ar fáil. Léaráid: Audrey Murphy.

**SILURIAN TRILOBITES:** these fossil arthropods are preserved as fragments in the Ballynane Limestone (bottom right). Here the head (cephalon) and tail (pygidium) of three different species are illustrated. The fossils were very carefully extracted from the limestone by Dr Derek Siveter (Oxford) who provided the images. Illustration by Audrey Murphy.

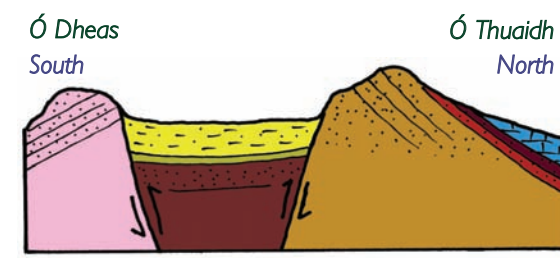


### Ionlúiteach Abhainn an Scáil trasgearrtha

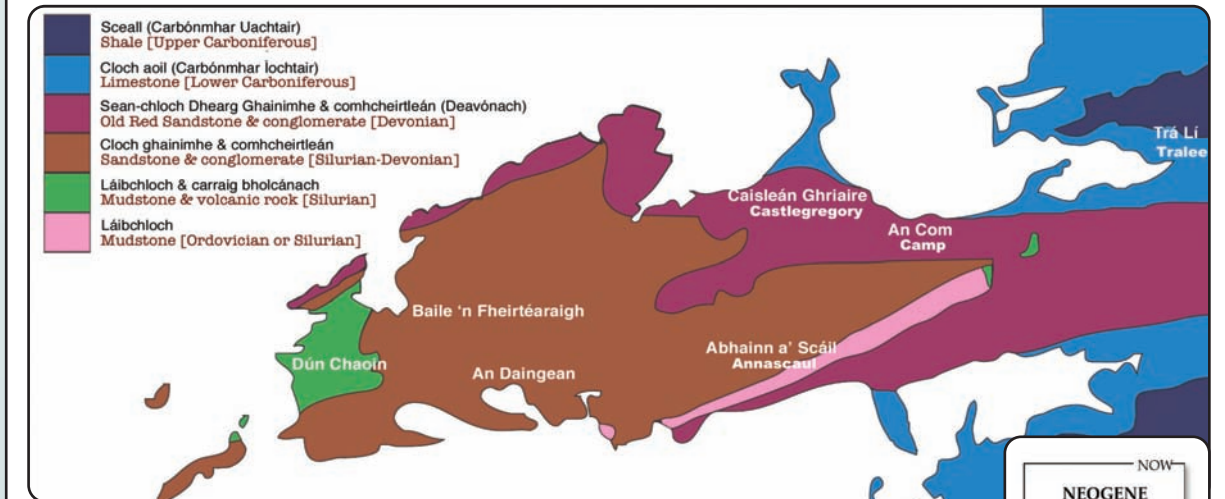
Is iad siúd i bhformaíocht Abhainn an Scáil na carraigeacha is sinne (buí) go bhfuil díospóireacht faoina n-aois ar feadh tamaill ag geolaithe a mholann gur cheachtar ón Ordaiviseach nó ón Siolúrach iad. Tá said níos sinne ná na gaineamhchlocha (Siolúrach go Deavónach) ar an dá thaobh dóibh (bándearg agus crón). Ionlúiteach isea mistéar carriage timpeallaithe go hiomlán ag carraig níos óige.

### Cross-section through the Annascaul Inlier

The oldest rocks are those of the Annascaul Formation (yellow) whose age has been debated for some time by geologists who suggest they may be either Ordovician or Silurian in age. They are older than the sandstones (Silurian to Devonian) on either side of them (pink and tan). An inlier is an area of older rock completely surrounded by younger rock.



## Stair na Geolaíochta i gCorca Dhuibhne Geological History of West Kerry



Le linn thréimhse an Ordaivisigh agus thréimhse an tSiolúraigh, is laistean de mheánchiorcal an domhain a bhí Éire, faoin bhfarraige idir dhá mhór-roinn. Bhí pluda agus gaineamh á leagadh síos ann, gur deineadh díobh na carraigeacha atá le feiscint anois gairid d'Abhainn an Scáil. Le linn an tSiolúraigh, bhí bolcáin ag pléascadh leis an laibhe agus leis an luaitheach atá le fáil inniu ag Ceann Sratha. Théadh ainmhithe i ngreim i ndrúdar láibe agus tá siad le feiscint inniu ann mar iontaisithe nó fosaíl gairid do Dhún Chaoin agus ar Chnoc Chathair Chonraoi. Drúdar gainimhe a leagadh síos ina dhiaidh sin a chruthaigh na clocha gainimhe i n-aice leis an nDaingean agus ag Ceann Sléibhe.

Faoi thréimhse an Deavónaigh, bhí an fharraige dúnta ar fad, rud a chruthaigh mór-roinn mhór talún le fásaigh ann. Deineadh Sean-chloch Dhearg Ghainimhe den ngaineamh, mar atá i ndrom Shliabh Mis, agus den ndrúdar garbh, deineadh na carraigeacha ar a dtugtar comhcheirtleáin, atá le feiscint inniu ag Loch Slait agus ag Inse.

Ag tús an thréimhse Carbónmhar, bhí an talamh faoi bhun farraige tanaí trópaiceach agus bhí an coiréal agus an t-iasc sliogánach ag maireachtaint go ráthmhar ann. Tá a rian súd caomhnaithe sna clocha aoil sna Machairí.

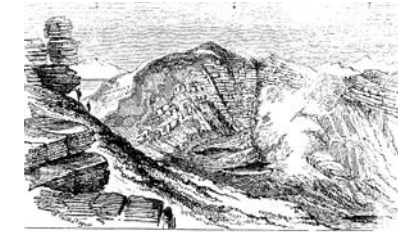
Le dhá mhíliúin bliain anuas go dtí deich míle bliain ó shin, bhíodh comanna á gcruthú ar thaobh na gcnoc ag an oighear; is minic a bhíonn locha iontu inniu. Ritheadh sruth an oighir le fánaidh trí na gleannta, agus de réir mar a léá sé, leagadh síos cré na mbollán le mórán saghsanna cloch tríd.

During the Ordovician and Silurian Ireland was south of the equator and under an ocean between two continents. Mud and sand deposited into it eventually became the rocks seen near Annascaul. In the Silurian, volcanic islands erupted lavas and ash now found at Clogher Head. Muddy sediments trapped animals today preserved as fossils near Dún Chaoin and on Caherconree Mountain. Younger, sandy sediments produced the sandstones near An Daingean and Sleah Head.

By the Devonian, the ocean had disappeared, forming a large continent with deserts. The sand formed Old Red Sandstone, the backbone of the Slieve Mish Mountains, while coarser sediments produced rocks called conglomerates, seen now at Lough Slait and at Inch.

At the beginning of the Carboniferous period the land was flooded by shallow tropical seas where shellfish and corals thrived. These are preserved in the limestones on the Magharees.

During the last 2 million years to 10,000 years ago, ice on mountainsides formed depressions called corries, many of which now contain lakes. Glaciers moved downslope along river valleys, and when they melted boulder clay containing many different rock types was deposited.



Coire déanta ag oighear le linn na hoighearaoise dheireanach. Greanadh adhmaid ón 19ú céad ag George Victor Du Noyer, geolaí le Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta Éireann (le cead Shuirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta Éireann).

Corrie formed by ice during the last ice age. Derrymore Glen. 19th century woodcut by George Victor Du Noyer, geologist with the Geological Survey of Ireland (courtesy Geological Survey of Ireland)

