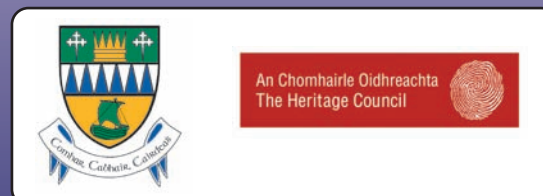
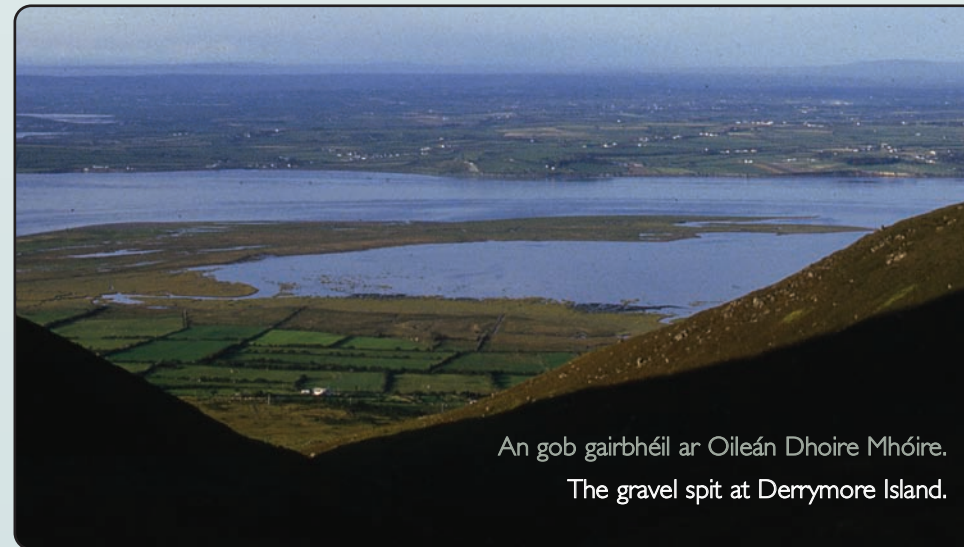
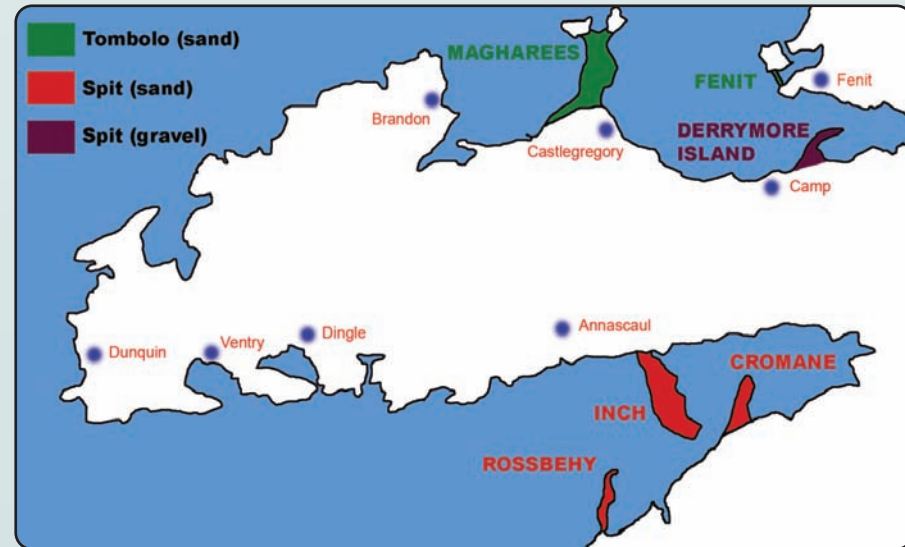


# Geolaíocht Chorca Dhuibhne cois bóthair

# The Roadside Geology of West Kerry



## Goba agus tambalónna Spits and tombolos



Tá roinnt iomairí ghainmheacha agus ghairbhéalacha tábhachtacha i gContae Chiarraí a d'fhás amach san fharrage thar 10,000 bliain anuas. Ceanglaíonn tambaló oileán leis an míntír (a leithéidí Na Machairí agus An Fhianait). Gob isea méar déanta as gaineamh (Inse, An Cromán, Ros Beithe) nó as gairbhéal (Oileán Dhoire Mhóire). Is minic go mbíonn córais dhumcha mar chuid dos na gnéithe tábhachtacha seo le flora éagsúla agus iad i mbaol chreimeadh an chósta. Tacaíonn na gnáthóga seo an Cnádán (Natterjack), an t-aon bhall den ghrúpa amfaibiaigh seo in Éirinn. Tá Oileán Dhoire Mhóire éagsúil sa mhéid is gur deineadh é as gairbhéal a sceith amach as sil-leaganacha oighreacha. Agus ní oileán atá ann. Is é an tambaló a cheanglaíonn ceantar Chaisleán Ghriaire le hoileáin na Machairí an ceann is faide in Éirinn. Tá na hoileáin déanta as Aolchloch Charbónmhar.

County Kerry contains a number of important sand and gravel ridges that have grown out into the sea over the last 10,000 years. A tombolo connects offshore islands with the mainland (as seen at the Magharees and Fenit). A spit is a finger of sediment that may be composed of either sand (Inch, Cromane and Rossbehy) or gravel (Derrymore Island). These important features often contain sand dune systems with a diverse flora and are very vulnerable to coastal erosion. These habitats also support the Natterjack Toad, Ireland's only member of this amphibian group. Derrymore Island is most unusual in that it is composed of gravel that washed out of coarse glacial deposits. It is also not an island. The tombolo that connects the Castlegregory district to some of the Magharee islands is the longest in Ireland. The islands are composed of Carboniferous limestone.



Aolchloch ag Cill Seanaigh le hOileán tSeanaigh (láthair luath-Chríostaíochta) tamall laistiar.

Limestone at Kilsannig with Illauntannig (an early Christian site) in the distance.

### Ciarraí le linn tréimhse Gheolaíoch Charbónmhair

Idir 360 agus 300 milliún bliain ó shin bhí Éire clúdaithe le muir thanaí inar mhair coiréil, trilíopaigh, sligéisc, ceifileapóid agus siorcanna. Leagadh aolchloch ar ghrinneall na farrage ina scaireanna nó ina druileanna. Tá seo le feiscint anois ar oileáin na Machairí. Tá iontaisí éagsúla ann, coiréil ina measc.

### Kerry during the Carboniferous Geological Period

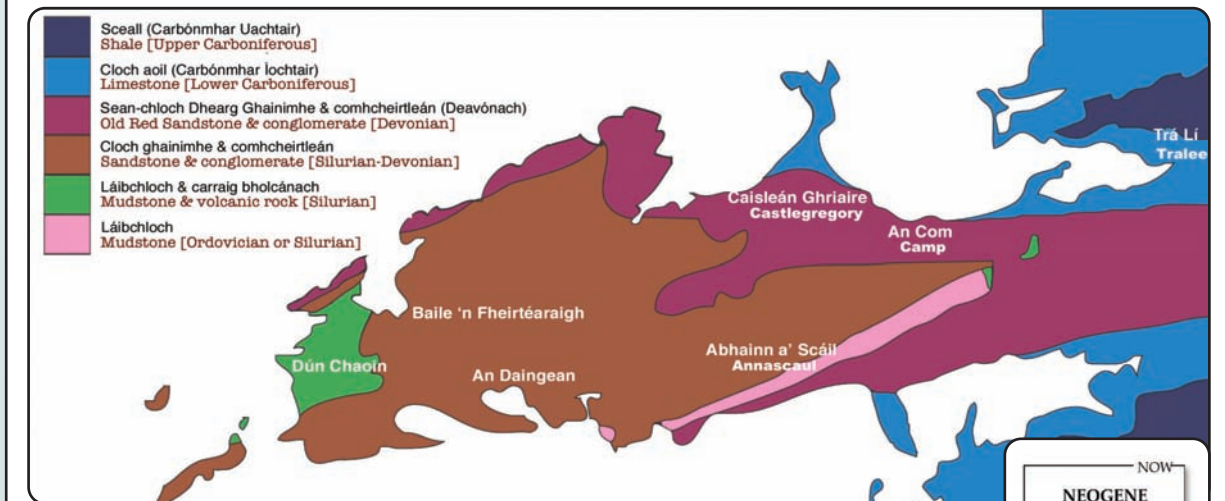
Between 360 and 300 million years ago Ireland was covered by a shallow warm ocean in which corals, trilobites, shellfish, cephalopods and sharks lived. Limestone was deposited on the seafloor in layers or beds. On the Magharee islands this limestone is now exposed. It contains rare fossils including corals.



*Lithostrotion*: coiréal cóilíneach a léiríonn go raibh an mhuir Charbónmhair te. (Grianghraf: John Murray).

*Lithostrotion*: a colonial coral indicates that the Carboniferous ocean was warm. (Photograph courtesy of John Murray).

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



Le linn thréimhse an Ordaivísigh agus tréimhse an tSiolúraigh, is laistea 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 luathreach atá le fáil inniu ag Ceann Sratha. Théadh ainmhithe i ngreim i ndríodar láibe agus tá siad le feiscint inniu ann mar iontaisithe nó fosailí gairid do Dhún Chaoin agus ar Chnoc Chathair Chonraoi. Dríodar 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 ndríodar garbh, deineadh na carraigeacha ar a dtugtar comhcheirtleán, atá le feiscint inniu ag Loch Slat agus ag Inse.

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

Le dhá mhíliún 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 leá 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 Slat 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.



Inis Tuaisceart, an Blascaod is faide ó thuaidh. Ó Dhún Chaoin tá cuma fhaithigh ina chodladh uirthi. Greanadh adhmaid ón 19ú céad ag George Victor Du Noyer; geolaí le Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta Éireann (le cead Shuirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta Éireann).

Inishtooskert, the northernmost island of the Basket group. When seen from Dunquin the profile of the island resembles a sleeping giant. 19th century woodcut by George Victor Du Noyer; geologist with the Geological Survey of Ireland (courtesy Geological Survey of Ireland)

