

KILDARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Dunmurry Hill
Other names used for site	
TOWNLAND(S)	Carrickanearla, Conlanstown, Cannonstown.
NEAREST TOWN	Kildare
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	22
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	271500 217115 = N 715 171
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	55 1/2 inch Sheet No. 16

Outline Site Description

Forested hillside

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks, presently unexposed and forested over are Silurian, Llandovery and Wenlock in age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

For many years the geological relationships of the rocks of Dunmurry Hill to those on the Chair of Kildare were debated. Discovery of some graptolite fossils from the lowest formation of black mudstones established that they were in fact much younger, from the Silurian, Llandovery Series. A fault runs along the valley separating Dunmurry from the Chair and younger rocks have been dropped down to lie at the same level as the Ordovician rocks on the Chair. Above the fossiliferous black mudstones are red mudstones, and then a thick sequence of greywacke sandstones which are the rocks, resistant to erosion, forming the bulk of the hill. The full sequence is described in Parkes and Palmer (1994).

Site Importance

The site is not of national importance but as a complementary part of the Kildare inlier, it certainly deserves CGS status.

Management/promotion issues

The hillside was forested in the last decade or so, and now the few exposures of mudstones are obscured, but when the forestry is felled, or subject to windfall etc it may provide new exposures to verify the fossils, since the original specimens have been lost.



Two views of the Dunmurry hillside, left in summer of 2005, and right in c.1991 before forestry was planted. Original fossils collected were from near the corner of the field hedge.

Dunmurry Hill

