SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: PORTRAINE SHORE

SITE CODE: 001215

This site is located about 3km east of Donabate. The site is mostly a stretch of rocky shore, with some intertidal sands at the south end. A narrow strip of coastal vegetation above the rocky shore is included.

Geologically the rocky shore is an inlier – a structure in which older rock is surrounded by rock of younger age. The northern end is an area of volcanic rocks with limestone, shale and grit to the south.

The grit series apparently forms the younger part of the exposure and the volcanic rocks the older.

The flora and fauna of the rocky shore is typical of such a habitat, with brown, green and red algae, and marine invertebrates. Turnstones, Oystercatchers and Curlew feed along the shore.

Above the rocky shore the following plant species were recorded: Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Campion (*Silene uniflora*), Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris* subsp. *maritima*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Sea Mayweed (*Tripleurospermum maritimum*), spurge (*Euphorbia* spp.), scurvygrass (*Cochlearia* spp.), Hoary Cress (*Cardaria draba*) and Tree-mallow (*Lavatera arborea*). Spring Squill (*Scilla verna*) was recorded along the cliff path. The narrow cliff path is used regularly by walkers.

This site is a good example of a rocky bedrock shore with a typical flora and fauna. The grassy vegetation above the shore adds habitat diversity. The site is also an important geological site.

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