



## **Perceptions of the subsurface and potential for geological training in west Clare**

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The Pennsylvanian rocks of west Clare, Ireland, have been visited by geologists working in industry since the late 1950s, mainly because of the succession's analogy with hydrocarbon-bearing, deltaic to deep-water sedimentary rocks on several continental margins, such as in the Gulf of Mexico. Since 2009, a programme of behind-outcrop drilling involving UCD and Statoil has acquired over 1,350 m of core from 12 boreholes behind the sea cliffs of the Loop Head peninsula. The new subsurface data have high value as an analogue dataset for use in training and reservoir characterisation. The high sea cliffs of west Clare are also an ideal setting for non-geologists to learn about geology. In order to facilitate training and wider geoscience outreach, a geosciences training and education centre in west Clare, Ireland, is in the initial phases of development. It is envisioned that the centre will involve the local community and wider public, facilitating links between natural resources, energy and environment. Public consultation is underway to ensure the centre fulfils the needs of the local community. The initial results of a survey (run in 2017) investigating the Clare locals' perception and understanding of the subsurface and of geological activities are outlined.