

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ballycrovane Harbour		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH8 Lower Carboniferous, IGH 10 Devonian		
TOWNLAND(S)	Kilcatherine, Gortgarriff		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Eyeries		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	101		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	462970E 553270N (cark park at quay)		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	84	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	24
GIS CODE	CK010		

Outline Site Description

Coastal section of low cliffs with rocky foreshore outcrops and small coves.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock comprises Upper Devonian red and green sandstone and siltstone of the Gun Point Formation and Toe Head Formation passing up into the uppermost Devonian Old Head Sandstone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The north side of Ballycrovane Harbour lies on the northern limb of the anticline that forms the upland core of the Beara peninsula. These foreshore outcrops provide good exposure of the transition from the terrestrial Devonian Old Red Sandstone rocks, which form the core of the anticline and dominate the bedrock geology of the Beara peninsula, to the marine sediments of the uppermost Devonian Old Head Sandstone Formation. The latter formation marks the commencement of the marine transgression that would eventually lead to the development of marine conditions over much of Ireland during the Carboniferous period.

The site as defined here is centred on a small quay apparently constructed to service shellfish farms in the harbour. To the south of the quay, red sandstone and siltstone of the Gun Point Formation pass northwards into red, green and grey sandstone and siltstone of the Toe Head Formation. Further north dark grey mudstone crops out near the contact with the Old Head Sandstone Formation. The remainder of the site to the northwest comprises marine sediments of the Upper Devonian Old Head Sandstone Formation. Approximately 1 km to the west, the Ardturkish Member marks the base of the Lower Carboniferous Kinsale Formation.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This site is an accessible location where the transition from terrestrial Old Red Sandstone rocks to marine rocks of the Upper Devonian can be observed. Further west, Lower Carboniferous strata of the Kinsale Formation crop out on the foreshore.

Management/promotion issues

The site largely comprises foreshore outcrops and cliff exposures. It is likely to be mainly of interest to professional and academic geologists and requires no further promotion.



General view northwards from central part of site of outcrops of grey sandstones and purple sandstones of the Gun Point Formation. Rocks of the Old Head Sandstone Formation crop out below the cliffs in the background.



Purple and green sandstone and siltstone of the Gun Point Formation at the southern end of the site.



Close-up of purple and green sandstone and siltstone of the Gun Point Formation at the southern end of the site.



Interbedded well-cleaved grey-green sandstone and grey mudstone of the Toe Head Formation, in central part of site, adjacent quay.



Grey mudstone and sandstone of the Toe Head Formation, in northern part of site.

