

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Glengarriff Harbour		
Other names used for site	(East) Glengarriff Harbour to Ardnamanna Point		
IGH THEME	IGH10 Devonian		
TOWNLAND(S)	Iskanafeelna, Derryceigh, Ardaturrish Beg, Ardaturrish More, Ardnamanagh, Ardnagashel		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Glengarriff		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	105		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	494770E 554090N (Iskanafeelna)		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	85	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	24
GIS CODE	CK049		

Outline Site Description

Coastal sections along the east side of Glengarriff Harbour, Bantry Bay.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Bedrock comprises Upper Devonian sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Gun Point Formation, Castlehaven Formation, Toe Head Formation and Old Head Sandstone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Geological Survey Ireland's report to accompany Sheet 24 West Cork (2002) makes reference to Upper Devonian-to-Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy that is exposed along a coastal section from east Glengarriff Harbour to Ardnamanna Point coast. However, much of this coastal section is inaccessible. The coastal section on the east side of Glengarriff Harbour hosts a conformable stratigraphical sequence of Upper Devonian-to-Lower Carboniferous rocks. The rocks record changing depositional sedimentary environments, from alluvial fan-associated braided river systems (Gun Point Formation, Castlehaven Formation) to near-coastal fluvial plain settings (Toe Head Formation), to shallow tidally influenced marine conditions (Old Head Sandstone Formation). Overall, these rocks provide a record of an encroaching sea flooding onto a terrestrial environment during the transition from the Devonian to the Carboniferous. Gun Point Formation, Castlehaven Formation, Toe Head Formation, Old Head Sandstone Formation rocks are exposed and accessible along the shore between Gun Point and Ardaturrish Point. The overlying formations in the conformable Devonian-Carboniferous succession (Kinsale Formation and Reenydonagan Formation) are best seen along the Coomhola River and at Snavé.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is an important County Geological Site as it provides a complete stratigraphical sequence that records the environmental transition from terrestrial Old Red Sandstone red-beds to tidal and marine sediments. The sequence plays a key role in understanding of depositional environments in the South Munster Basin during Upper Devonian and Lower Carboniferous times.

Management/promotion issues

The site includes exposed coastal sections on the north shore of Bantry Bay and riverbed exposures. Appropriate care should be taken if visiting these locations. The site is of value for geological field research.



Gun Point Formation at Isknafelna. View west to Illauncreeveen and Glengarriff Harbour.



Ardnamanagh Member (Kinsale Formation) by roadside north of Snave Bridge.



Reengough Member (Kinsale Formation) by roadside between Snave Bridge to Coomhola Bridge.



Reenydonagan Formation mudstone at Snave. Coomhola Bridge on N71 in background.

