

## CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Glengarriff to Adrigole R572 Road</b>		
Other names used for site	Glengarriff towards Castletownbere		
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH10 Devonian</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Furkeal, Bocarnagh, Loughavaul, Tracashel, Coolieragh</b>		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Glengarriff</b>		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>104, 107</b>		
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>490785E 552550N</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>84, 85</b>	<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>GIS CODE</b>	<b>CK050</b>		

### **Outline Site Description**

Roadside cuttings into Old Red Sandstone along the Glengarriff to Castletownbere R572 road.

### **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

Bedrock comprises Upper Devonian purple and green sandstone and siltstone of the Caha Formation and green-grey sandstone and purple siltstone of the Gun Point Formation.

### **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

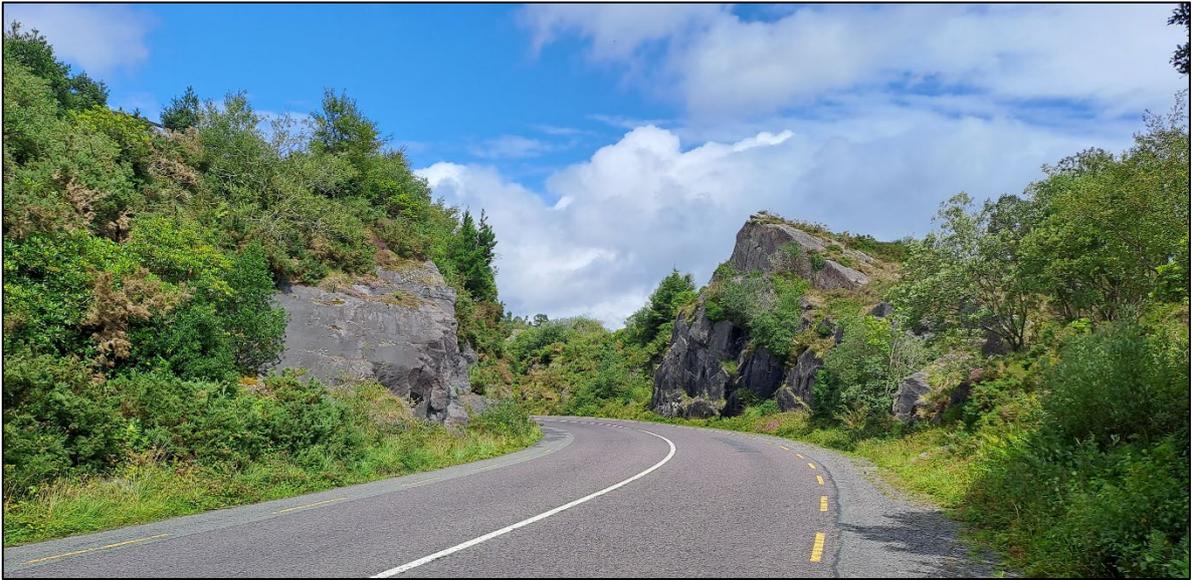
Geological Survey Ireland's report to accompany Sheet 24 West Cork (2002) lists 'Glengarriff towards Castletownbere' as a key locality: "*Roadside outcrop of Gun Point Formation - the outcrops provided by the 'new' (1997 - 2001) stretch of the R572 road (Castletownbere) road are superb. It allows us to walk for miles along rockfaces of varying colors (sic) and grain-sizes. Here it can be demonstrated, how the color (sic) of the rock is sometimes restricted to individual beds but sometimes is independent of any bedding.*" Whilst natural weathering and vegetation cover has affected the 'superb' nature of the outcrops, the cuttings remain intact and their proximity to the road affords easy access along many of the wider stretches of road.

### **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

This is an important site because of the extensive exposures of Upper Devonian Old Red Sandstone rocks on the Beara Peninsula. Whilst uplands and off-road exposure is abundant, the ease of access to these outcrops along this stretch of road renders this site an important County Geological Site.

### **Management/promotion issues**

The site is along a public road where exposed Old Red Sandstone is unmissable both in the road cuttings and on the adjacent upland areas. The geological heritage of the area, in the context of the abundant Old Red Sandstone rocks that are laid bare, is suitable for public promotion at roadside viewing sites such as the Whiddy Island View Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point along the R572. This is a busy road, and access to the cuttings is only recommended at locations where the cutting is safely off the roadside.



Caha Mountain Formation exposed in R572 road cutting at Loughavaul. View towards Glengarriff.



Gun Point Formation exposed in R572 road cutting at Whiddy Island View Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point. Sheep's Head Peninsula visible in southwest, across Bantry Bay.



Caha Mountain Formation exposed in R572 road cutting at Furkeal. View towards Glengarriff.

