

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Macroon (Hartnett's Cross)		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH10 Devonian		
TOWNLAND(S)	Sleeven East		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Macroon		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	71		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	535140E 571850N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	79	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	21
GIS CODE	CK063		

Outline Site Description

Sandstone outcrops alongside a narrow cul-de-sac road off the R584 road, near Hartnett's Cross.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Bedrock comprises purple sandstones of the Upper Devonian Caha Mountain Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site is situated 300 m west of Hartnett's Cross. Sandstone beds dip steeply southwards and are cut by sets of quartz veins up to 6 cm thick. The Caha Mountain Formation makes up the bulk of the Old Red Sandstone in West Cork. It is correlated with the Ballytrasna Formation which is found in East Cork.

The Caha Mountain Formation is named after a type section in the Caha Mountains on the Beara Peninsula, northeast of Glengarriff, and extends from areas to the north and south of Macroon as far west as Dursey Island. The formation makes up most of the Beara Peninsula, and it is also found on the Sheep's Head, and areas north of Dunmanway.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is a good location to see easily accessible Caha Mountain Formation exposures. This formation covers vast areas of west Cork and south Kerry, particularly along the Beara Peninsula.

Management/promotion issues

The outcrops are situated alongside a narrow cul-de-sac road leading uphill from the R584 Macroon to Toonsbridge road, approximately 300 m west of Hartnett's Cross. As it is on a quiet cul-de-sac road, the site is unlikely to be impacted by road-widening works. Increased vegetation growth and cover may obscure the outcrops. St. Bernard's Well is situated just east of the site.



Caha Mountain Formation sandstone outcrops by roadside.



Caha Mountain Formation sandstone outcrops by roadside.



Entrance to St. Bernard's Well. Road leading uphill located beyond well entrance.



Quartz veins cutting sandstones.

