

FINGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Lambay Island
Other names used for site	Kiln Point, Seal Hole, Heath Hill
IGH THEME:	IGH 2, 4 (Precambrian to Devonian Palaeontology, Cambrian-Silurian)
TOWNLAND(S)	Lambay Island
NEAREST TOWN	Portrairie, Rush
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Dublin 9
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	332400 250200 = O32400 50200
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	43 1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description

Entire island with extensive coastal cliffs and inland natural exposures of rock.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Upper Ordovician andesite and associated volcanic rocks, with fossiliferous limestones at Kiln Point and shales at Heath Hill.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The island itself is important as an Ordovician volcanic complex. It forms one of several such complexes which resulted from the closure of the Iapetus Ocean and subduction of one tectonic plate beneath another. This took place around 450 million years ago, resulting in the two 'halves' of Ireland joining together. The diversity of rock types include the well known Lambay porphyry – an attractive stone when polished for ornamental use. Of particular importance is the area around Kiln Point and Heath Hill, where a variety of fossils have been collected which provide evidence of the age of the rocks and of the environment at the time. Corals and other shells indicate a warm tropical sea around the extinct volcanic island.

Site Importance

Lambay's palaeontological record which documents the volcanic events in the construction of Ireland as we know it, makes this an important site. The island is already recognised and protected as an SAC, partly because of the isolation which reduces threats to nature conservation. The geological heritage is equally significant.

Management/promotion issues

This island is privately owned and well managed, with a conservation programme in place since it is already a pNHA, SAC (204) and SPA (4069). Public access is restricted and therefore this site is not suitable for any public promotion. The geological story on Lambay is mirrored by Portrane and this can be used to illustrate Lambay's geology to the public.



Above: Kiln Point, on extreme left, Heath Hill (centre) and Seal Hole (right), with graptolite locality at top right of picture, at left end of shadowed bank. This view is from the northern margin of the site looking south.

Lambay Island



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