

FINGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Malahide Coast
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME:	IGH 3, 8 (Carboniferous to Pliocene Palaeontology, Lower Carboniferous)
TOWNLAND(S)	Robswalls
NEAREST TOWN	Malahide, Portmarnock
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	12, 15
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	324830 245030 = O 2483 4503
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	50 1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description

Coastal Section.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous limestone and shale of the Malahide Formation and Tober Colleen Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This coastal exposure, just south of Malahide, shows a diverse range of fauna within the Lower Carboniferous rocks. Three fault lines run through this coastal section, which have created breaks in the stratigraphic succession. The rocks have been solely dated on the basis of their microfaunal assemblages.

Site Importance

The Malahide coast shows the only near-continuous section through the fossiliferous Lower Carboniferous rocks in the Dublin basin and as such should be recognised for its national importance. As well as its geological significance the large quantity and variety of fossils makes this a very interesting location, even for someone without any knowledge of geology.

Management/promotion issues

This site lies within an already existing pNHA and SAC (Malahide Estuary - 205). It can be easily accessed from anywhere along the R106 between Malahide and Portmarnock. This is a well walked stretch of coastline with no foreseeable management problems. No building or disturbance should be permitted.



Above left: Colonial Coral found within the Lower Carboniferous limestone along the Malahide Coastline.
Above right: Brachiopod fossil.
Bottom Left: En Echelon quartz veins occurring near fault lines. These are small scale indicators of tectonic activity.
Bottom Right: A view of the Lower Carboniferous flaggy limestone along the Malahide coastline.

Malahide Coast

