

FINGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

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|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----|
| NAME OF SITE | Hill of Howth | | |
| Other names used for site | | | |
| IGH THEME: | IGH 4, 12 (Cambrian-Silurian, Mesozoic and Cenozoic) | | |
| TOWNLAND(S) | Sutton North | | |
| NEAREST TOWN | Howth | | |
| SIX INCH MAP NUMBER | 15, 19 | | |
| NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE | 328180 237840 = O 2818 3784 | | |
| 1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER | 50 | 1/2 inch Sheet No. | 16 |

Outline Site Description

Valleys and rock outcrops on the Hill of Howth.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Cambrian quartzite and mudstone *mélange* of the Drumleck Formation and polymict *mélange* of the Elsinore Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

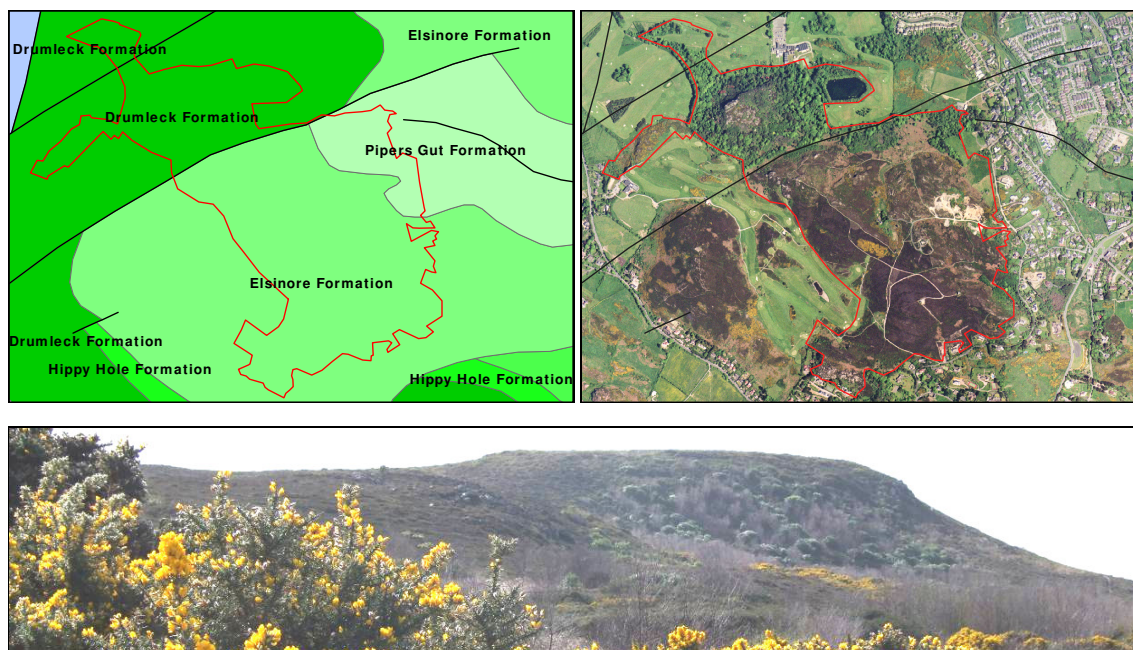
Near the summit of Howth Hill, lying between Muck Rock and the Ben of Howth is a heavily vegetated, steep sided valley. This valley represents a large fault plane that creates a contact between the Drumleck Formation to the north and the Elsinore Formation to the south. A large number of outcrop exposures from both formations are found across this site, showing structures associated with faulting.

Site Importance

This is an important site, recommended for County Geological Site status. It clearly demonstrates both small and large scale structural deformation within Cambrian rocks, making this an excellent teaching locality. It also has specialist research potential for Tertiary landscape evolution.

Management/promotion issues

This site lies within the existing pNHA and SAC of Howth Head (202) and is well used by locals as a walking route. Access to the site is by numerous public footpaths that criss-cross the area.



Top Left: Geological map of the Hill of Howth. The north east - south west trending fault can be seen here creating a contact between the Drumleck and Elsinore Formations (Site boundary marked with red line).
Top Right: Aerial photography showing the variation in vegetation across the fault line.
Bottom: View of Muck Rock, which is composed of Cambrian rocks of the Drumleck Formation

Hill of Howth

