

FINGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Malahide Point
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME:	IGH 13 (Coastal Geomorphology)
TOWNLAND(S)	Corballis
NEAREST TOWN	Donabate
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	12
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	324000 246000 = O 24 46
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	43, 50 1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description

Dunes and a sand/shingle spit.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Recent geomorphological landforms.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This large geomorphological feature composed of a broad dune system and a long beach to its east is formed by the transport of beach material (primarily in this case of sand and shingle) by a process called longshore drift. This occurs when waves approach a shore obliquely and push transported beach deposits along the coast in the direction of the waves. A spit will form when there is a change in the shape of the coastline, such as a bay or small inlet, as seen north of Malahide. This causes the transported material to stretch out across the mouth of the bay to form what is called a spit. The continued flow of the Broadmeadow River prevents the spit from closing off and forming a lagoon.

Site Importance

This dune system is based on a shingle spit and is one of the best-developed and most natural in the country.

Management/promotion issues

Malahide sand spit is surrounded and partly included in the existing Malahide Estuary pNHA and SAC (205). The beach and sand dunes are generally well maintained. Most of the small peninsula belongs to a local golf club, whereas the beach is public and can be accessed from the main road. Any change of land use of the spit from the existing golf links could be detrimental to the integrity of the spit.



Left: Sand and shingle deposits found along the east and southeast shores of Malahide Point.
Right: An elevated view of Malahide Point from near the summit of the Ben of Howth.

Malahide Point

