LOUTH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	**Clogherhead Wave Cut Platform**
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	**IGH7 Quaternary**
TOWNLAND(S)	**Clogher**
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	**Clogherhead**
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	**22**
ITM CO-ORDINATES	**717090E 784545N**
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	**36 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 13**

Outline Site Description
This site includes an important erosional feature which was cut by high relative sea levels around the headland at Clogherhead.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
The erosional features at Clogherhead were cut by marine action at the end of the last Ice Age, and are therefore Quaternary in age, but are cut into rocks which are of Silurian age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
On the northern portion of the headland at Clogherhead a number of flat notches have been cut into the bedrock outcrops, giving the side of the hill there a staircase-like appearance. On the southern side of the headland, one wave-cut notch can be seen.

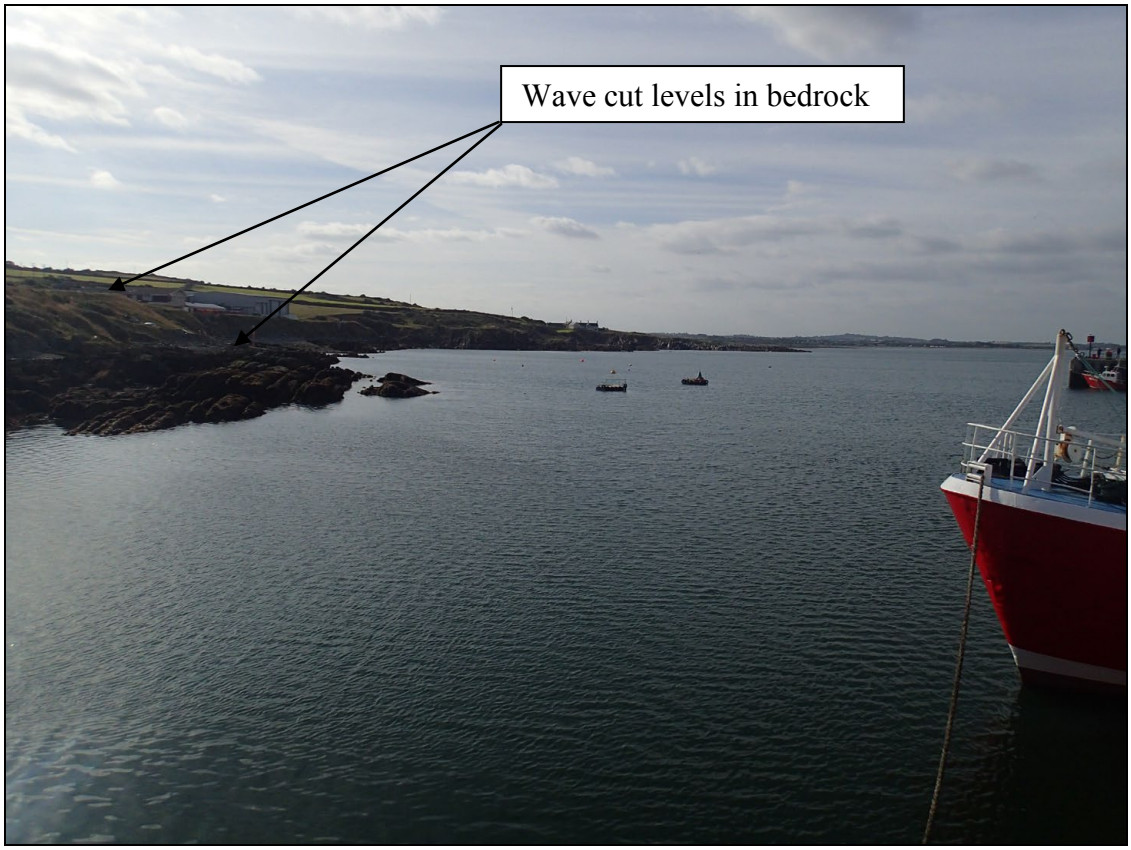
These notches are wave-cut platforms, which are also termed coastal benches, wave-cut benches or shore platforms. These are the narrow flat area often found at the base of a sea cliff or along the shoreline of a lake, bay, or sea that was created by the erosion of waves. Wave-cut platforms are usually most obvious at low tide when they become visible as huge areas of flat rock

Where sea level has fallen the wave cut platforms may be raised well above current sea level, and the fact that several can be seen along the northern side of the headland at Clogherhead means that the locality records the height of several post-glacial sea levels.

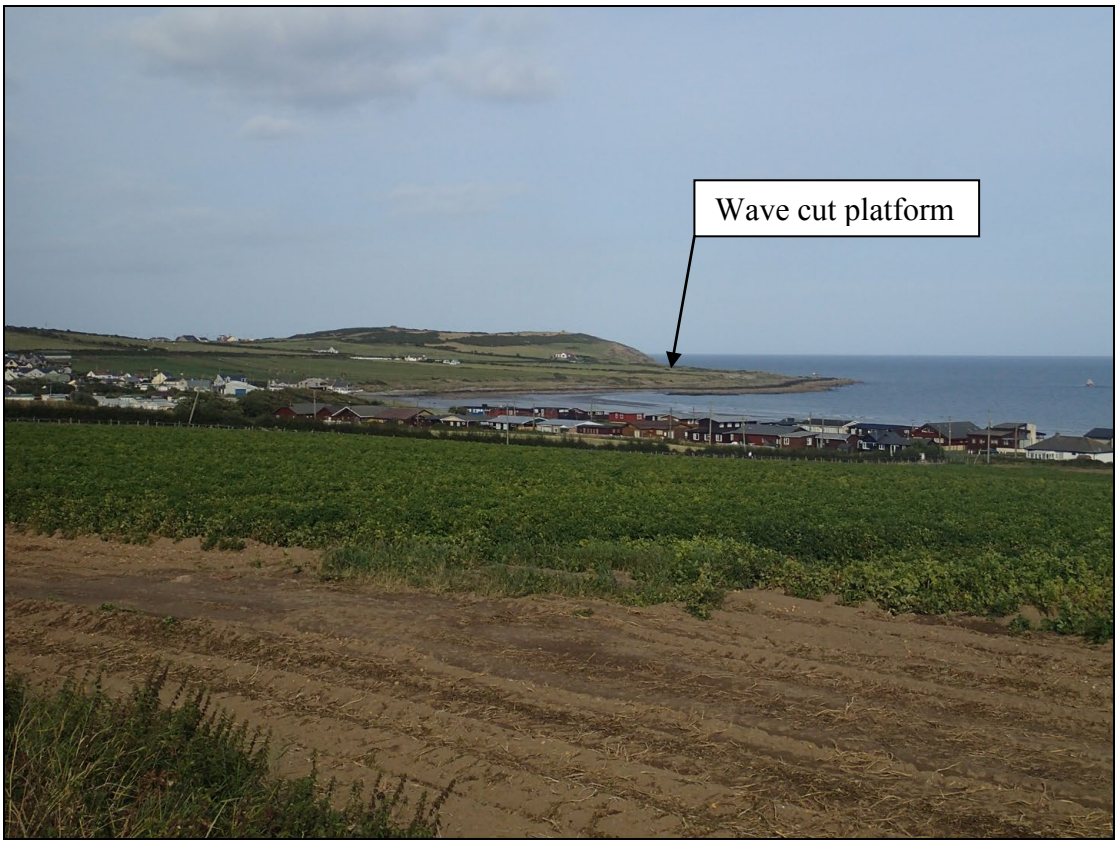
Site Importance – County Geological Site
The wave-cut features at Clogherhead are important in terms the information their elevations provide in terms of relative sea levels during regional deglaciation episodes in this portion of the Irish Sea Basin.

Management/promotion issues
The portion of the site on the southern side of the headland is accessible through public beach access and is therefore easily visited. On the northern side, visiting the features is tricky and will involve clambering along rocks.

The site is not at any great risk, although dumping of exotic rock boulders in any kind of coastal protection measure should be avoided. Given that it has safe access and the number of visitors to this area anyway, the wave-cut features at Clogherhead could be promoted more as an interesting geological locality. However, the geological stories that it displays are quite complex and not easily presented in a straightforward way and would need expert interpretive geologist input.



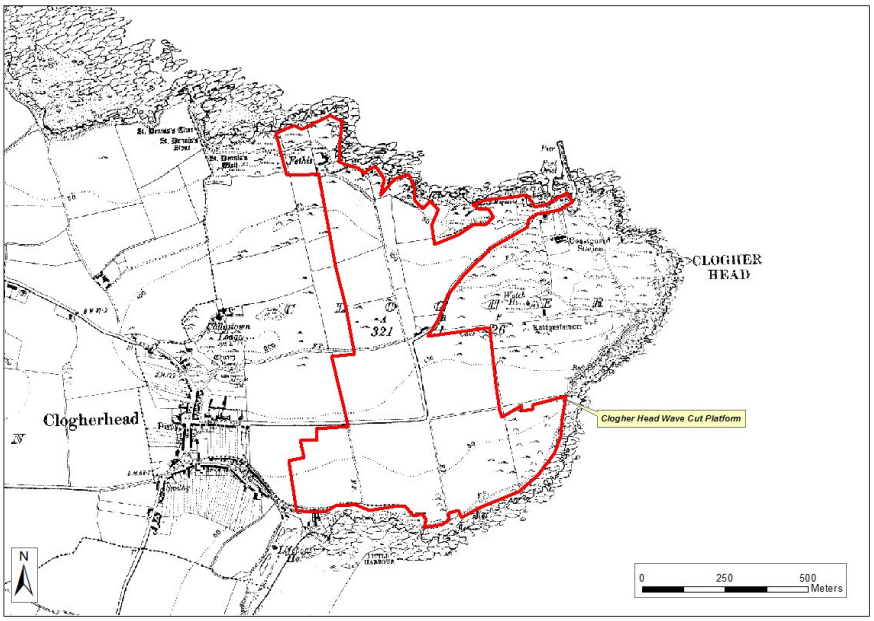
View along the north side of the headland at Clogherhead. See the 'staircase-like' form of the bedrock outcrops, recording wave washing and cutting.



View northeastwards from Glaspistol, towards Clogherhead. See the wave cut platform on the southern side of the headland.


Glebe East
Motte
Glebe South
Hacketts Cross
Port Oriel
Pier
Slip
Coast & Cliff Rescue
Holy Well
Clogher Head
Ceann Chlochair
Clogher
Earthwork
Bales
Ch
Callystown
Clogherhead
Ceann Chlochair
Clogher Head Wave Cut Platform
Lifeboat Station
Castle
Castlecco Hill
Cnoc Chaisleán Có
Souterrain
Glaspisto


Clogher Head Wave Cut Platform
N
0
250
500
Meters


CLOGHER HEAD
Clogherhead
Clogher Head Wave Cut Platform
N
0
250
500
Meters