

## NORTH DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Ards Friary</b>
Other names used for site	Ards Point, Horse Park Point
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH 5 Precambrian</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Ards</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	<b>Creeslough</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>16, 26</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>609207E 935262N (main outcrop)</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 2</b>	<b>GSI 1:100,000 Bedrock Sheet No. 1</b>
<b>GIS code ND049</b>	

### **Outline Site Description**

The site comprises c.100 m of cliff and foreshore exposures immediately south of Horse Park Point, reached via a coastal walking path from Ards Friary.

### **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

The rocks are quartzites and pelites of the Ards Quartzite and Ards Pelite Formations of the Precambrian Dalradian Appin Group.

### **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The Ards Pelite Formation and overlying Ards Quartzite Formation crop out on the eastern side of the Ards peninsula north of Ards Friary. The upper part of the Ards Pelite Formation has generally been assigned to the Ards Transition Member, defined by the appearance of impure quartzitic beds that increase in number and thickness with increasing proximity to the overlying Ards Quartzite Formation. This site contains one of the best exposures of the Ards Transition Member.

The rocks here are on the southern limb of the Errigal Syncline, with the Ards Quartzite, which forms Errigal Mountain, forming its core. The southern limb of the syncline is inverted, so that the beds, instead of dipping northwards towards the core, dip to the south. The Ards Quartzite Formation strata thus underlie the older Ards Pelite Formation strata. There is abundant evidence for the inversion of the stratigraphy at the site, with features observed in the quartzites including channel infills, grading of grain size and slumping. The transition from Ards Pelite Formation to Ards Quartzite Formation takes place over a distance of c. 100m, from the appearance of thin, 10mm-thick quartzite beds to the disappearance of pelites.

### **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

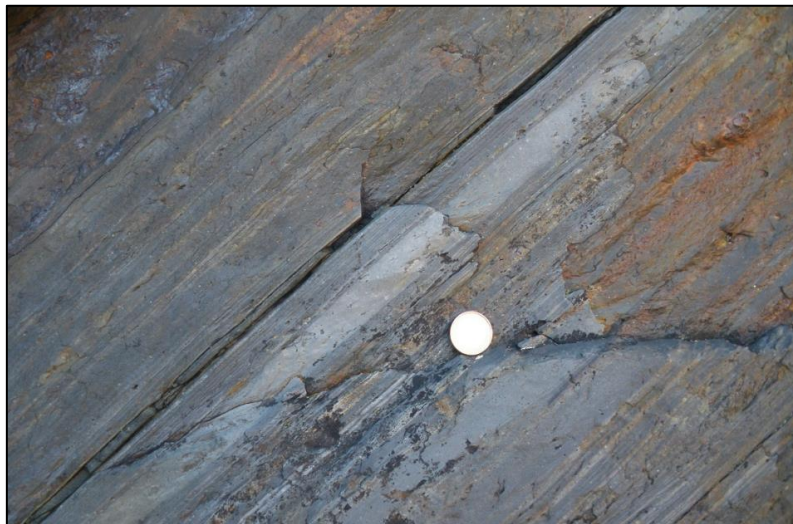
This is an excellent exposure of the Ards Transition Member. It also illustrates the inversion of the southern limb of the Errigal Syncline, with excellent exposure of sedimentary structures within the quartzites.

### **Management/promotion issues**

The site is within the extensive grounds of Ards Friary. The friary is open to the public and the walking paths are popular with visitors. Benches are provided at various points. There are no information panels. The possibility of erecting a panel near Ards Point could be considered.



Contact between inverted sequence of Ards Quartzite Formation and Ards Transition Member: cream-coloured quartzite below pelite on overturned limb of Errigal Syncline.



Thin quartzite beds (pink colour) at base of Ards Transition Member.



Channel fill (immediately right of hammer handle) in impure quartzite near top of Ards Transition Member. Dark layers are thin pelite beds



