

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Copper Coast – Garrarus Strand
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH4 Cambrian – Silurian, IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)	Islandikane East, Caher, Garrarus
NEAREST TOWN	Tramore
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 26
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	254732 98400 [entry to beach]
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	76 1/2 inch Sheet No. 22

Outline Site Description

The site includes the foreshore and coastal cliffs both east and west of Garrarus Strand.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock is all of Ordovician age, from about 460 million years ago. The soft sediments overlying bedrock were deposited by ice during the Quaternary (Ice Age).

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The cliffs in this bay include a wide range of rock types and different formations with faults separating and repeating units. There are baked black shales, pale rhyolite intrusions, limestone of the Tramore Limestone Formation and many intrusions of andesite volcanic rock.

At each end of the beach large channels eroded out of the bedrock are seen in section, and are filled with glacial till.

Site Importance

The site is part of the complex of sites along the Copper Coast, which collectively are of national importance and which are already part of a proposed NHA (Ballyvoyle Head to Tramore No 1693).

Management/promotion issues

The beach has safe access and parking and the rocks are accessible along the beach. If venturing beyond the beach, caution must be taken in relation to the tides, but at low tide it is possible to traverse westwards along to Kilfarrasy.



Panorama view of Garrarus Strand from the eastern end, looking westward.



Panorama view of Garrarus Strand from the western end, looking eastward.



Disrupted dyke of pale volcanic rock intruded into Tramore Limestone.



A cliff section showing the complex relationship of different rock types.



A glacial channel filled with till.



