

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Copper Coast – Kilfarrasy Strand
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH4 Cambrian – Silurian, IGH13 Coastal Geomorphology
TOWNLAND(S)	Kilfarrasy, Islandikane south
NEAREST TOWN	Tramore
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 26
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	252600 98280 (entrance to strand)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	76 1/2 inch Sheet No. 23

Outline Site Description

A long coastal section of cliffs and bays.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks are all of Ordovician age from around 460 million years ago, but are quite variable in type, with rhyolite and andesite volcanic rocks, shales and slaty sedimentary rocks.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The cliffs display a complex mix of Ordovician volcanic and sedimentary rocks, with many folds and deformation of the sedimentary rocks observed. Where there are no volcanic rocks the sedimentary rocks are strongly cleaved, or slaty, because of the intense pressure they experienced during the Caledonian mountain building event. The volcanic rocks are less deformed. The lithological control on deformation is typical of the region but is displayed well here.

Towards the western end of the section there is a headland with a distinct arch eroded through it. However, on the foreshore eastward of the headland is a freestanding rock arch, with two arches present. Sea stacks and other coastal erosion features abound here.

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 is publicly accessible and there is a Copper Coast Geopark interpretative panel mounted near the access point. If exploring further parts of the section westwards to Kilfarrasy Island (a headland) and its sea arch, or eastwards towards Sheep Island the tide needs to be taken into consideration and low tide is needed for access.



Panorama view looking eastwards of the eastern section of the site towards Sheep Island.



Sea stacks on the east side of Kilfarrasy.



The Geopark display panel at Kilfarrasy.



Sea stack with arches at west end of site.



Arch in headland called Kilfarrasy Island.



Panorama view of the west side of Kilfarrasy Strand adjacent to the car park and beach access.



