

# WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	Quillia
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	IGH2 Precambrian to Devonian Palaeontology
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Quillia
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	Tramore
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	Waterford 26
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	261200 103600
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	76                      1/2 inch Sheet No.    23

## Outline Site Description

The site comprises farm fields and tracks, including the main metalled access road.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Ordovician calcareous sandstones of the Tramore Limestone Formation.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

A rich and diverse fossil fauna of Ordovician age, from around 460 million years ago, has been found at this locality. The rock is a sandy limestone with many fossils in thin bands, which were originally shell banks, in contrast to the fossiliferous environments represented by the same age rocks at Tramore and southwards along the coast. It is also important as the type locality of a trilobite species, first identified and described from here in 1895. In most cases, the original shell material has dissolved and the fossils are preserved as very finely detailed moulds in a rusty iron coloured fine sandstone or siltstone.

## Site Importance

The site is of County Geological Site importance but has already been identified to National Parks and Wildlife Service as one which should be designated as a Natural Heritage Area.

## Management/promotion issues

Historical collections of fossils from here are found in museum collections, but there is presently very little exposure of rock at all. However, the bedrock is just below the surface, and the locality of the farm track itself was once a good source of fossils, although there is now a tarmac surface. The landowner is amenable to informing the Natural History Museum if he intends to make any new excavations, and thus provide a new opportunity for collecting material from here.



The Quillia site, viewed from northwestern side.



Area with rock just below surface.



The main farm track entrance, which once yielded many fossils.



The grassland at Quillia has no real exposure present, but rock is close to the surface.



