

WEXFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Cahore Point	
Other names used for site		
IGH THEME	IGH4 Cambrian-Silurian	
TOWNLAND(S)	Cahore	
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Courtown	
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	17	
ITM CO-ORDINATES	721150E 651860N	
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	69	GSI Bedrock 1:100,000 Sheet No. 19

Outline Site Description

Approximately one kilometre of coastal section, with near continuous rock exposure.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks at Cahore Point are Cambrian, and are mostly quartzites with slates and siltstones.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This is a good representative section of the Cambrian rocks of the Cahore Group. The Cahore Group is a major element of Wexford's rocks but is poorly exposed inland. It is the equivalent of, or correlated with the Bray Group of County Wicklow. There are thick bedded grey-green to purple greywackes interbedded with slates at the southern end of the section. These are defined as the Cahore House Formation. They are faulted against massive grey-green quartzites of the Cahore Point Formation which make up the Point itself. There is locally an olistostrome – a jumbled mix of quartzite blocks in a slate matrix which results from a localised debris flow.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA

This is a good representative site deserving of County Geological Site status, but may be recommended for NHA when all Cambrian-Silurian sites are assessed in a national overview of the theme.

Management/promotion issues

The coastal nature of the site automatically requires that any visitor pay attention to the tides and their own safety. Access can be made at several points along the section, but a traverse requires low tides and some degree of scrambling on uneven rocks and grassy banks.

Access to the site is from the pier at the northern side of the Point, or from the beach at the southern end. A cliff path allows views down onto the headland too.



The Cambrian quartzite rocks exposed at Cahore Point.



The northern part of the section with the pier in the distance.



The northern part of the section viewed from the pier.

