

WEXFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Greenore Point
Other names used for site	Carrick Beacon
IGH THEME	IGH11 Igneous Intrusions
TOWNLAND(S)	Bing, Wadingsland, Ballyaddragh
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Rosslare Harbour
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	48
ITM CO-ORDINATES	715200E 611240N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	77
	GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 23

Outline Site Description

Rocky outcrops in the tidal zone at a prominent headland south of Rosslare Harbour.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Precambrian age bedrock comprises fine-grained dark green amphibolites and some schists of the Greenore Point Group (Rosslare Complex).

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Greenore Point Group comprises a thick sequence of foliated and banded amphibolites. Whilst the rocks do not exhibit any observable evidence of their origin, they are understood to have formed as gabbro, and were metamorphosed and deformed around 620 million years ago. To the south of Greenore Point, some amphibolites occur that were originally formed as diorites.

The age relationship between the Greenore Point Group and the Kilmore Quay Group (also Rosslare Complex), occurring to the south of St. Helen's Harbour and southwest to Kilmore Quay, remains a subject of debate. The Rosslare Complex amphibolites, gneisses and schists of the have been foliated by several episodes of folding and faulting, including deep burial of the complex and gradual uplift over millions of years.

The Greenore Point Group rocks are in faulted contact with a 20m wedge of younger Ordovician metasediments of the Tagoat Group (Milltown Formation and Grahmormack Formation) rocks that occur along the shore at low tide northwest of Greenore Point, and in old quarries south of Rosslare Harbour.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is an important County Geological Site because it hosts good exposures of the Greenore Point Group (type locality) amphibolites. The coastal section is located within Carnsore Point SAC (002269). Greenore Point is located in St. Helen's Burrow pNHA (00782).

Management/promotion issues

Access to the shoreline exposures is easy along the beach from Rosslare Harbour or St. Helen's. This is an exposed shoreline, and care should be taken with tides and weather conditions.



Fishing at Greenore Point and Carrick Beacon Rock (marker in distance).



Foliated amphibolite along beach.



Amphibolite and glacial mud at Greenore Point.



Shoreline bedrock exposures and muddy cliffs at Greenore Point. *

* Image: Office of Public Works Coast of Ireland Aerial Oblique Imagery Survey 2003. Permission to reproduce acknowledged.

