

WEXFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Greenville farmyard
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH2 Precambrian to Devonian Palaeontology
TOWNLAND(S)	Greenville
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Enniscorthy
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	20
ITM CO-ORDINATES	696260E 641400N (centre of feature)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	69
GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	19

Outline Site Description

Disused farmyard and adjacent field.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks are slaty mudstones, with some ashy beds, and are of Ordovician age, from the Sandbian Period.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

A disused farmyard in Greenville Townland is important as a representative example of many fossil localities in the rocks running across Co. Wexford and adjoining counties. It is typical of the fossil faunas from mudrocks which were originally deposited in deep water away from the volcanic rocks which characterise the southeast Ireland rock belt which has been defined as the Duncannon Group, and also as the Campile Formation. The fossils are mainly trilobite species, many originally first described and identified from here in the 19th century. Greenville Farmyard is type locality for several trilobite species including the small agnostid *Trinodus agnostiformis* (M'Coy), *Remopleurides platyceps* (M'Coy, 1846) and *Ampyxina hibernica* (Owen and Parkes, 2000).

Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA

The long history of importance of this site for biostratigraphical correlation, and the fact that it is type locality for several trilobite species are good justification for designation as a Natural Heritage Area, representative of the deeper water environments and faunas of the Caradoc Duncannon Group.

Management/promotion issues

The site itself is very small, but has been shown to cover part of the adjacent field, as a small pit dug in 1999 for fill material by the landowner exposed fossiliferous horizons there too. This has been backfilled with inert material. Any fresh excavation or ground clearance in the immediate area has the potential to provide new fossil material and new information, since two previous collections showed considerable differences in the fossil faunas recovered.



The farmyard at Greenville has rock at the surface, just below the thin soil and grass cover.



The muddy patch is the approximate extent of the now-backfilled pit which yielded much fossil material, just outside the gate at the lower end of the farmyard.

