

## WEXFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Harrylock Bay</b>		
Other names used for site	The Scout's Hiding Place		
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH15 Economic Geology</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Templetown</b>		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Fethard</b>		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>49</b>		
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>675250E 602200N</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>GSi Bedrock 1:100,000 Sheet No.</b>	<b>23</b>

### **Outline Site Description**

A short section of coastal exposures which have been extensively quarried.

### **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

The rocks here are Devonian in age, informally called 'the Old Red Sandstone', but classed as the Harrylock Formation. There are thick conglomerate beds and coarse grained red sandstones. The same formation outcrops across the peninsula, and was also quarried at the companion site of Graigue Great.

### **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

This site is included as a key source of millstones in historical times. It owes its existence simply to people recognising the value of a very specific lithology. From Medieval times up to early Modern times in Ireland, suitable rock types for millstones in wind and water powered mills would have been highly prized. The quartz conglomerates at Harrylock Bay and at Graigue Great, or Millstone Hole, clearly provided a suitable rock, indicated by the large numbers of circular 'dishes' or scars from where stones were extracted. A circular ring was chiselled out for the outer edge and a small hole in the centre for the axle. Water and wooden wedges could then help split the stone off along a natural bedding plane.

The position of these quarries close to the shore provided an added advantage in that the rocks provided a natural jetty (which was probably improved) but in any case millstones could be strapped to a boat above them at low tide which would then lift off on the rising tide, for transport up the River Suir or along the coast.

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

This is an important industrial archaeology site which should be protected through recognition as a County Geological Site. When the IGH15 Economic Geology Theme is fully assessed for the best sites on a national basis this site may be one that is recommended for NHA status.

### **Management/promotion issues**

The site could possibly be promoted, obviously depending on suitable access and landowner permission being agreed and organised. Access via Lumsdin's Bay along the shore is possible at low tide but is not easy.



The quarried area viewed from the end of the jetty.

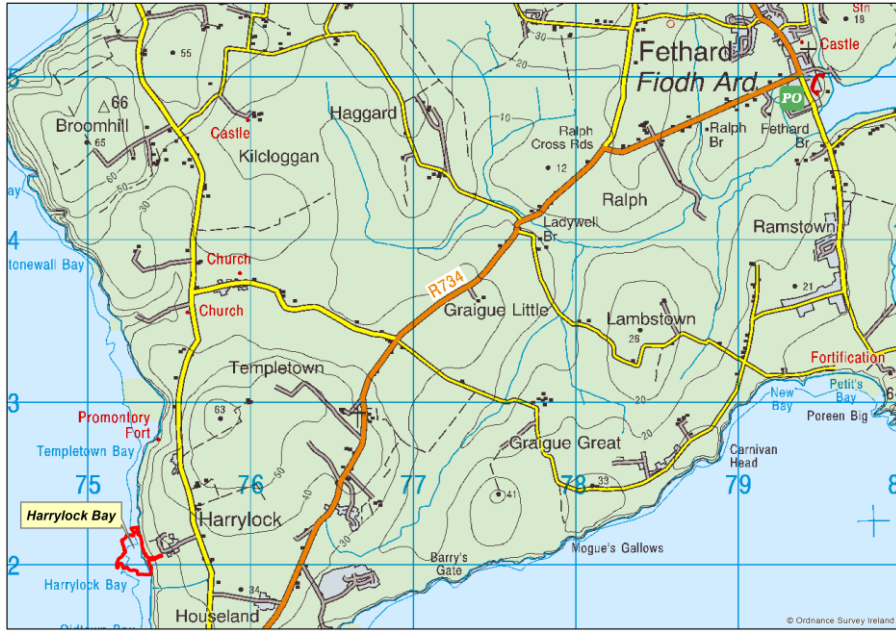


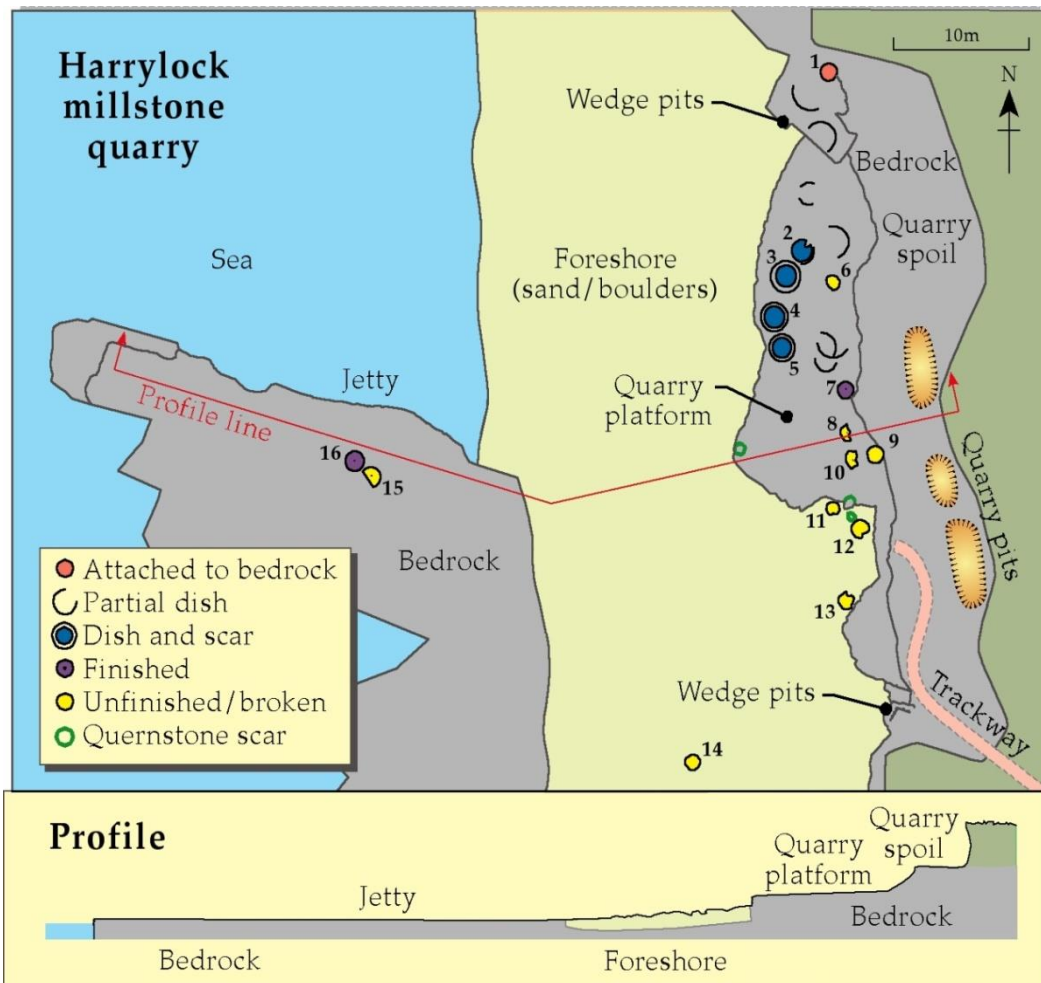
Two abandoned millstones on the jetty.



The quarried bed at Harrylock Bay with 'dishes' evident.







Plan of Harrylock millstone quarry, by courtesy of Dr Niall Colfer, from his PHD thesis on the Millstone quarries of Medieval and early Modern Ireland.



Aerial view of Harrylock millstone quarry, by courtesy of Dr Niall Colfer, from his PHD thesis on the Millstone quarries of Medieval and early Modern Ireland.