

WEXFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Petit's Bay	
Other names used for site		
IGH THEME	IGH4 Cambrian-Silurian	
TOWNLAND(S)	Ramstown	
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Fethard	
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	50	
ITM CO-ORDINATES	679700E 603235N (centre of section)	
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	76	GSI Bedrock 1:100,000 Sheet No. 23

Outline Site Description

The site is a section of rocks exposed on the beach at the western side of Baginbun Head, not the headland itself.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks exposed at Baginbun Head are Cambrian in age and are defined as the Booley Bay Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Petit's Bay site is representative of the Lower Ordovician Ribband Group rocks which underlie so much of Wexford, with its companion site of Baginbun Head which displays the same rocks in the bay on the opposite side of the Baginbun Head promontory. Steeply dipping interbedded siltstones and shales are seen but without the conglomerates in Baginbun Head. There are also folds in the rocks, and interpreting the structures is a challenging task. As they are very poorly exposed inland, the coastal sections of Cambrian rocks are critical for our interpretation and understanding of the main areas underlain by them. Petit's Bay is an accessible place for teaching and illustrating a part of Wexford's geology, and complements Baginbun Head and Booley Bay, but with variations in the rocks to be seen.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This site is a good County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The rocks are accessed from the beach which is served by a slipway path from a parking area at the cliff top. As with any coastal site, caution regarding the tides or stormy weather should be applied. If desired, an explanatory signboard could be erected to explain the geology, probably in the car parking area on the cliff top, where other information signs exist. Good views of the rocks can be obtained from the cliff path at the end of the road on Baginbun Head.



The section on Petit's Bay from the western beach access track. Note the warning sign.



The Petit's Bay site seen from the cliff top path on Baginbun Head at the eastern end.

