

WEXFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Pollshone Head – Roney Point		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH4 Cambrian-Silurian		
TOWNLAND(S)	Askingarran Lower, Glen		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Courtown		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	17		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	720660E 652570N (centre of section)		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	69	GSI Bedrock 1:100,000 Sheet No.	19

Outline Site Description

Approximately 2 km of coastal section, with rocky exposures along most of it.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The section exposes Lower Ordovician rocks of the Ribband Group, with some rocks of the Cambrian age Cahore Group included. They are mostly laminated slaty mudstones with siltstone bands, and some quartzites.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This is a good representative section of Ribband Group slaty rocks that are not well exposed inland, although they underlie very large tracts of the county from the northeast to the southwest. The name 'Ribband' stems from the original description in the 1800's by geologists, of the frequently striped or banded appearance of these laminated mudstones. There is near complete exposure along the section apart from some beach areas. At Pollshone Head the Seamount Formation is seen on the north side, with the Ballyhoge Formation then occurring southward to Roney Point, although north of Salt Rock there are small faulted sections of the Seamount Formation and the Roney Formation. At Roney Point, best accessed from the beach at the southern end, the pale coloured quartzites of the Roney Formation are more resistant to erosion by the sea and form the headland.

The slaty rocks are broadly interpreted as turbidites where storm events or earthquakes cause a slurry of sediment to flow into a basin and settle out. The quartzites represent bigger events that bring shallow water sands down into the basin.

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

This is a good representative site that merits County Geological Site status, and may be recommended for NHA designation 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. There is also a slight danger in wet weather of small slides of unconsolidated deposits on top of the rocks exposures, down onto the beach areas.

The public access points at Pollshone Head and at Roney Strand provide the opportunity for signboards, which would be a worthy addition to the site.



The northern part of the section looking from Salt Rock northwards to Pollshone Head.



Looking south from Salt Rock to Roney Point in the distance.



The grey slates of the Ballyhoge Formation on Pollshone Head.



Pale coloured quartzites of the Roney Formation at the south end of the site, at the beach access to the headland.

