

LOUTH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Greenore Raised Beach
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH13 Coastal geomorphology
TOWNLAND(S)	Greenore, Mullatee, Millgrange, Muchgrange
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Greenore
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	9
ITM CO-ORDINATES	722500E 810530N (centre of feature)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	36 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 8/9

Outline Site Description

The Greenore Raised Beach is a wide, flat-topped feature adjacent to the shoreline around Greenore. It is the remains of a beach deposited in the locality when sea level was 3m-5m higher than it is today.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The feature has been formed since the last glaciation ended 10,000 years ago and is therefore Holocene in age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The raised beach is exceptionally flat-topped and has no real relief, excepting the artificial hummocks created at Greenore Golf Club, which lies within the centre of the feature.

Exposure into the raised beach, in low cliffs along the modern beach, shows that the feature is comprised of exceptionally well bedded and sorted sands and gravels, which are unconsolidated and easily eroded.

Raised beaches such as this have been elevated above the modern shoreline by a relative fall in sea level. This fall in sea level is a consequence of elastic rebounding of the land that occurred after the ice had retreated, thereby removing a huge weight that had depressed the land surface. The beach is thought to date from the post-Mesolithic period and contains some stones that are thought to be rolled flint implements dating from the same time.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

The beach is a textbook locality for the recognition of coastal emergence and a fall in relative sea level. The beach lies at the edge of Carlingford Lough which is already a proposed NHA (pNHA 000452) as well as an SPA and SAC for biodiversity reasons. The geodiversity of the raised beach should be highlighted in any promotion of this.

Management/promotion issues

The location of the feature means it is easily accessible and the modern beach at Greenore is a popular recreational feature. Information on the feature could be provided on some of the information boards at Greenore, which already explain the associated habitats, flora and fauna of the area. The geological formation of the feature could be highlighted in future in literature covering the Cooley Peninsula.



A view of the flat-topped form of the Greenore Raised Beach, just south of the town itself.



Exposure into raised beach sands and gravels along the modern day beach, at Greenore.



