

LOUTH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Templetown Raised Beach
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH13 Coastal geomorphology
TOWNLAND(S)	Templetown
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Greenore
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	9
ITM CO-ORDINATES	721530E 805319N (centre of feature)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	36 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 8/9

Outline Site Description

The Templetown Raised Beach is a wide, flat-topped feature adjacent to the shoreline west of Cooley Point, which extends inland up to 500m. The feature is a beach deposited in the locality when sea level was approximately 20m higher than it is today.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The feature was formed at the end of the last glaciation and is therefore Quaternary in age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The beach is exceptionally flat-topped and has no real relief. The beach has been cut into till which was deposited earlier during the glaciation.

Exposure of 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 raised above the modern shoreline by a relative fall in sea level. This feature is probably the best example of a late-glacial shingle beach closely related to readvance of ice sheet limits in Ireland.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

The beach is a textbook locality for the recognition of coastal emergence and a fall in relative sea level, and as it is such a good example of a late-glacial shingle beach related to a readvance, it is of County Geological Status merit.

Management/promotion issues

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



A view of the flat-topped Templetown Raised Beach, looking south from the car park.



The widest part of the Templetown Raised Beach, inland from Cooley Point.



