

## FINGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Balscadden Bay</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME:</b>	IGH 8 (Lower Carboniferous)
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Howth
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	Howth
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	15, 16
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	328920 239110 = O 2892 3911
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	50 <b>1/2 inch Sheet No.</b> 16

### Outline Site Description

Coastal cliffs within a small bay area.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous limestone and Cambrian polymict mélangé (an ill-assorted mixture of various fragmented rock types).

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The coastal exposure along Balscadden Bay shows a faulted contact between the Lower Carboniferous dark muddy limestone of the Ballysteen Formation and the Cambrian polymict mélangé of the Elsinore Formation. The contact between these two rock formations is a large fault zone, which juxtaposes older Cambrian rocks with much younger Lower Carboniferous rocks. This contact can be seen as fault breccia along the beach at Balscadden Bay.

### Site Importance

This is a good example of a faulted contact between Lower Carboniferous and Cambrian rocks making this site a good teaching locality and it is therefore recommended as a County Geological Site.

### Management/promotion issues

This site already lies within the existing pNHA and SAC of Howth Head (202). Access is by means of a public footpath and steps, which lead down to a small shingle beach. Care should be taken during periods of high tide and rough seas as nearly all the geological interest is along the waterline.



Right: A section along Balscadden Bay displaying fault breccia (a type of altered and fractured rock that is produced along a fault line).

Right: View of the Cambrian coastal exposure of the Elsinore Formation along Balscadden Bay.

# Balscadden Bay

