

# Geological Sights! North Ireland Coast

May 2005

Harrow and Hillingdon  
Geological Society



 @GeolAssoc

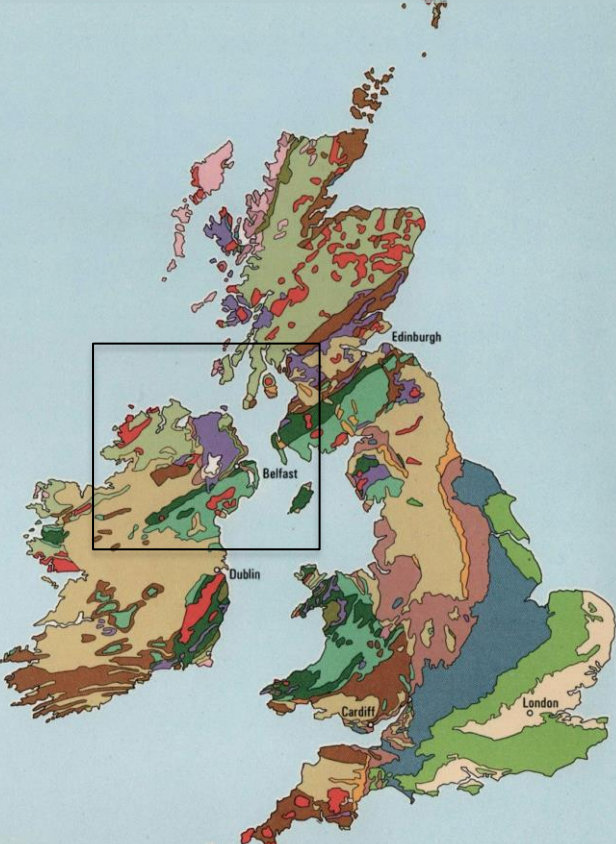
 Geologists' Association

[www.geologistsassociation.org.uk](http://www.geologistsassociation.org.uk)



6TH OCTOBER  
**INTERNATIONAL  
GEODIVERSITY  
DAY** THE DIVERSITY  
SUSTAINS THE LIFE

The trip examined how the geology of the North of Ireland and the South of Scotland lines up, including the closing of the Iapetus Ocean at the end of the Silurian, the Highland Boundary Fault crossing to the Irish coast, and the volcanics.





# Looking at the Penarth Beds



Penarth –  
flaser  
bedding  
(slumping in  
soft  
sediments).



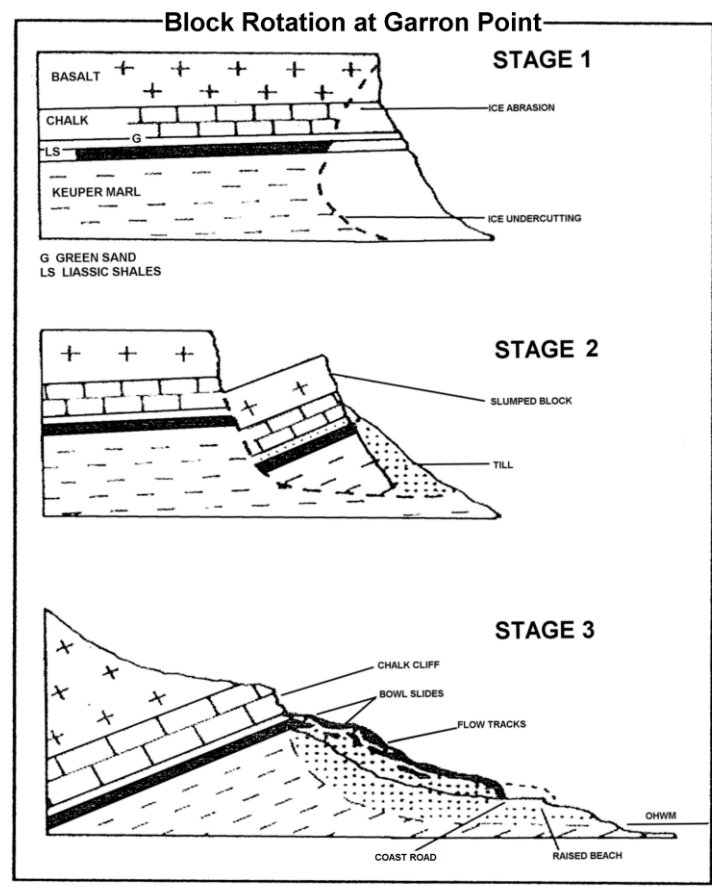
Penarth – contact between the Mercia  
Mudstones and the Rhaetic ('Penarth' in N.I.)

## Waterloo, near Larne





Garron Point -  
block rotation  
landslip.



# Garron Point

Devonian conglomerate



Devonian conglomerate showing a sandstone lens.

Devonian conglomerate forming cliffs, with caves at raised beach level.



Cushendun





Schist boulder



Red porphyry dyke cutting through and incorporating boulders of Dalradian schists.

# Rockport





Torr Head Cliffs showing the unconformity between the White Limestone and the Mercia Mudstone.



Pillow lavas at Murlough Bay.

# Murlough Bay and Torr Head Cliffs





'The Chimney' and red Port na Spaniagh laterite.



The Giant's Causeway is made up of 40,000 basalt columns from a series of lava flows in the Palaeocene.

# Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site





Iron ore and bauxite deposits.



Onion-skin weathering in basalt due to subsequent desert conditions.

# Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site



White limestones and lavas, Ballintoy Bay.



Port na Spaniagh laterite, Ballintoy.

Carrick-a-rede volcanic vent with tuff



North Star olivine dolerite dyke, Ballycastle



# Ballintoy and Ballycastle





White granite with black xenolith of Ards pelite, now metamorphosed.



Mickey's Hole – a thrust at the bottom of a nappe, with Ards quartzite upside-down under the Ards pelite.

'Marble' Arch, truly quartzite.



Donegal coast





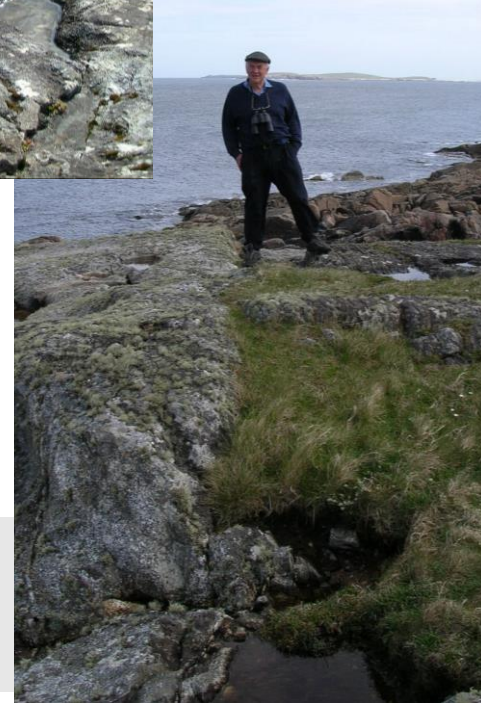
Hornfels – with textbook examples of folding showing the axial plane.



Pelitic schists at Rosapenna.



Curran's Bay – contact between granite and metamorphic hornfels.



# Curran's Bay and Rosapenna





Butterlope Glen hard black limestone. These rocks were caught up in the continental collision associated with the closure of the Iapetus Ocean at the end of the Silurian.



# Butterlope Glen, Sperrin Mountains