

INFOMAR Blue Scale Map Series

The INFOMAR (Integrated Mapping for the Sustainable Development of Ireland's Marine Resource) programme was established in 2006 as a joint venture by the Geological Survey Ireland and the Marine Institute (<https://www.infomar.ie/>). The programme aims to map Ireland's seabed and deliver a comprehensive baseline bathymetry dataset to underpin the future management of Ireland's marine resource. The programme's Blue Scale Map Series features a collection of high-resolution bathymetric maps of Ireland's coastal waters. Three of the maps feature the topography of the nearshore seabed of the South Wexford Coast in remarkable detail: Hook Head (published 3 November 2023), Carnsore Point (published 10 November 2023), and the Saltee Islands (published 24 July 2026).



The maps may be downloaded via the following links.

Hook Head:
https://www.infomar.ie/sites/default/files/images/galleries/bluescale/Hook_Head.jpeg

Saltee Islands:
<https://www.infomar.ie/sites/default/files/images/galleries/SalteeIslands.jpg>

Carnsore Point:
https://www.infomar.ie/sites/default/files/images/galleries/bluescale/Carnsore_Point.jpg

Saltee Islands Report. The Saltee Islands map was accompanied by a Marine Geoscience Report exploring St Patrick's Bridge and the wider geological setting drawing on INFOMAR bathymetry and geological interpretation to highlight some of the main geological features visible on and around Great Saltee and Little Saltee.

The report focuses on the islands' distinctive pink granitoid rock, the Saltees granodiorite, which was emplaced around 436 million years ago within the Rosslare Complex, one of the oldest rock units in Ireland. The report shows how seabed mapping has identified jointed granite surfaces, submarine lineations and possible fault zones continuing offshore, with some of these features aligning with structures visible on Little Saltee. It also notes the roughly oval, northeast to southwest form of the granite body, reflecting the tectonic forces that shaped the area. The report also highlights how later glacial and coastal processes helped shape the Saltees we see today. Limestone-rich clay deposited by melting glaciers, together with strong tidal currents, contributed to the formation of present-day causeways, while rising sea levels and ongoing marine erosion helped create the steep cliffs, sea stacks and wave-cut platforms that characterise the islands (<https://infomar.ie/sites/default/files/pdfs/MGR%20Saltees.pdf>).