CAVAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE   **Crossdoney Granite Quarry**
Other names used for site
IGH THEME   **IGH11 Igneous intrusions,**
TOWNLAND(S)   **Gortnashangan Upper or Hermitage**
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE   **Crossdoney**
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER   **25**
ITM CO-ORDINATES   **637600E 800444N**
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER   **34**   **GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 8/9**

Outline Site Description
This site is a small, shallow disused quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
The quarry has been excavated into the Crossdoney Granite, a small intrusion of granite which underlies a small area of about 20 km^2 around the village of Crossdoney. The granite was intruded during the Caledonian Orogeny, around 417 million years ago.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
The Crossdoney Granite is one of a limited number of small early-Caledonian granitic intrusions across Ireland. These were emplaced during the early stages of the Caledonian orogeny that occurred as the Iapetus Ocean closed near the end of the Silurian period. Larger granitic intrusions, including the Leinster Granite, formed slightly later in the orogeny, around 405 million years ago.

The Crossdoney Granite is composed of a number of different granite types. It is the only granite known to occur in county Cavan but it is generally very poorly exposed. This site is the best known exposure in the county. The quarry was opened between 2000 and 2005 and a small body of granite has been removed but it is a very shallow quarry, with little exposure of rock left except on the periphery of some excavations.

Site Importance – County Geological Site
This is a good representative site of the only known granite body in county Cavan.

Management/promotion issues
The quarry is apparently now disused. It is private property and is not suitable for promotion.

A view of the Crossdoney Granite Quarry.

A view of the best actual rock exposure in the Crossdoney Granite Quarry.

A view of the Crossdoney Granite Quarry, looking towards the entrance.

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