

DUBLIN CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	GPO (General Post Office)		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH 15 Economic Geology		
TOWNLAND(S)			
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	In Dublin City		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	18		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	715806E 734642N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	50	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO:	16

Outline Site Description

The General Post Office Building in the centre of O'Connell Street, in particular the doorways and marble panelled interior area for customers.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

This is a Georgian building of modern historical vintage, opened in the early 1800s. The marble panelling of note here was fitted in 1928 during restoration of the building following the damage done during the 1916 Rising.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The interior hall for customers is heavily panelled with Irish marbles, primarily just three types: Connemara Green Marble, Cork Red Marble and a black marble which could be from Kilkenny or from Galway. Their intensity of use is notable within the main hall of counters for customer service, but is best displayed in the two halls inside the main doors. The selected black marble here is highly fossiliferous with corals dominating one hall and brachiopod shells the other.

The exterior of the building is also interesting with two key building stones used. The wings are built with granite from Golden Hill in Wicklow. The dominating front pillars are made of Portland Limestone, imported from Dorset in England. This is a classic freestone, widely used in important buildings. It is easily carved when freshly quarried, but hardens with exposure to air.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

The sole use of three classic Irish marble types was perhaps a deliberate nationalistic choice in the period it was refurbished. Irrespective of that, it provides a good example of building stone use.

Management/promotion issues

As an iconic national building there are few issues to consider regarding safety and access. There is room for better promotion of the building stone interest of the panels in the public area. There could be information panels close by or on the marbles. There could be a free leaflet for tourist visitors to pick up.



The GPO exterior.



Cork Red Marble beneath the counters.



The pillars are clad in Connemara Marble.



Cork Red Marble above fossiliferous black marble is obscured by advertising signs.



Left: Cork Red Marble over fossil corals in Black Marble.



Right: Doorway pillars in Connemara Green Marble.



