

DUBLIN CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Glasnevin Cemetery
Other names used for site	Prospect Cemetery
IGH THEME	IGH 15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	In Dublin City
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	18
ITM CO-ORDINATES	714666E 737215N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	50
GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO:	16

Outline Site Description

Very large public cemetery of 120 acres.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The cemetery was first used in 1832, and has been in constant use since. The rocks used in gravestones and memorials are of many different types and ages.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Described as Ireland's Necropolis the Glasnevin Cemetery is a very large area between Glasnevin and Finglas, and adjoining the National Botanic Gardens. The list of people buried here includes a massive roll call of Ireland's political leaders, artists, musicians and civil figures. The older parts of the cemetery have gravestones mostly made of unpolished limestone or granite, but with superb craftsman's skills evident in the stone masonry. These are most likely to be from standard contemporary supplies that were brought to Dublin by horse cart from Wicklow (granite) or perhaps by canal or railway (limestones). The newer sections of the cemetery have a different feel, with gravestones made with rock types from all over the world, with a predominance of polished types. Overall, the variety of rock types on display, and the enormous variety of ways in which it has been worked and treated are an educational and historical resource.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

The cemetery provides an unparalleled range of worked rock types accessible to view. It also provides great scope for research into the provenance of the rock types used, and this may be something already considered within the grave restoration project ongoing in the cemetery.

Management/promotion issues

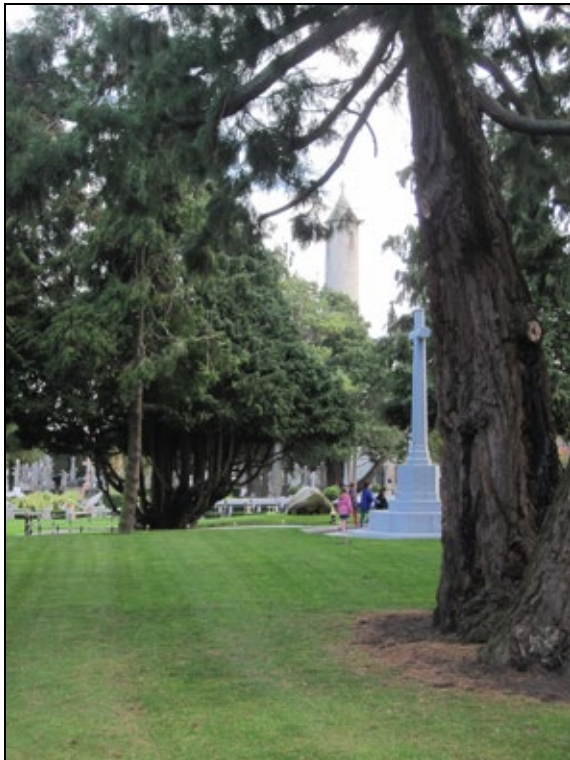
Visiting the cemetery is easy, and the development of the Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, along with guided tours around the graves of key historical figures means that it is very accessible. The preparations for 1916 celebrations have included extensive restoration of older gravestones. The Museum sells a range of maps and books on the history of the cemetery, but the geology has not been described to date. A publication is in preparation by the author of this report.



Michael Collins grave beside the Museum.



View of the older part of the cemetery.



Left: Parnell's grave under the boulder in the cholera pit grave.



Right: One of the more exotic polished stones in the newer part of the cemetery.



View of the newer part of the cemetery.



View of the older part of the cemetery.

