

DUBLIN CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Museum Building, TCD
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	716178E 734033N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	50
GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO:	16

Outline Site Description

The Museum building of Trinity College Dublin, in particular the original interior.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The building was completed in 1857.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Conceived and built as a Museum for the University of Dublin, this building is an architectural gem in its own right, but is notable for the variety and use of different marbles and other building stones in its imposing interior hall. It was built by the firm of Dean and Woodward who shortly after built the famous Oxford University Museum of Natural History. The exterior and the capitals of columns inside have many excellent carvings in Portland Limestone by the O'Shea Brothers. Internal columns and staircase are made from a wide range of polished limestones and metamorphic marbles, including green Connemara Marble, black Kilkenny Marble, mottled Cork Red Marble and many others.

The original construction was internally subdivided in 1953, but the entrance hall remains largely as it was. The positioning of additional cases with geological exhibits in the entrance lobby and hall, plus a male and female Giant Irish Deer Skeleton, make for additional geological interest.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

It is a very fine demonstration of rock types in building construction and ornamentation.

Management/promotion issues

The building is an integral part of the College facilities and houses geology, geography and engineering staff and as such is a working building today. To date, there has been no particular promotion of it within the University, in the same fashion as the Book of Kells and the Long Room Library, but it is believed that there may be some discussion of the idea of resurrecting it as a museum or public focused building within the campus. Despite the lack of any present signage, it is a regular place for tourists with guidebooks to seek out and visit.



The Museum Building central hall.



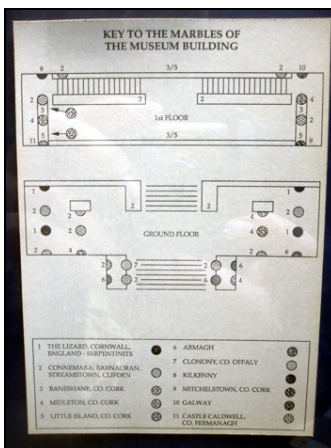
Columns of varied marble types.



The front view of the building.



Entrance hall with Giant Irish Deer skeletons.



Plan and display of building stone used.



Female Giant Irish Deer skeleton.

