

DUBLIN CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

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| NAME OF SITE | Oscar Wilde Statue | | |
| Other names used for site | | | |
| IGH THEME | IGH 15 Economic Geology | | |
| TOWNLAND(S) | St. Andrews | | |
| NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE | In Dublin City | | |
| SIX INCH MAP NUMBER | 18 | | |
| ITM CO-ORDINATES | 716500E 733726N | | |
| 1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER | 50 | GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO: | 16 |

Outline Site Description

A life size statue of Oscar Wilde, on Merrion Square, made of sculpted rocks, placed on top of a very large boulder of quartz.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The statue is modern. The constituent rocks are of a wide variety of ages.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

An extremely striking statue of Oscar Wilde is an artwork in its own right. It is of particular geological interest because the life size statue is almost entirely made of different ornamental rock types, fashioned to create a realistic representation.

The sculpture is made from exotic materials, such as Canadian green nephrite jade for the jacket, Guatemalan white jade for the head and hands and a rare pink stone from Norway called thulite for the collar and cuffs. The trousers are made of an iridescent larvikite from the Oslo Fjord In Norway (known as blue pearl granite in the stonemason's trade) and the shoes and socks are black Indian granite, polished and unpolished respectively. Shoelaces, buttons and the green carnation are made of bronze, and he wears a Trinity Old Boys tie, made in coloured glazed porcelain.

The figure itself is reclined on a very large boulder, not of Wicklow granite as stated on many websites etc, but of quartz from Wicklow, derived from a major fault zone. Other elements include related figures on plinths with quotations from Oscar Wilde.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

The statue is a remarkable example of different rock types used to extraordinary artistic effect, and is fully publicly accessible.

Management/promotion issues

The quartz boulder on which the statue reclines is becoming darker coloured each year with weathering and growth of algae. The proposal to undertake a cleaning exercise has been discussed, and may be undertaken by a team of geological volunteers after some trial cleaning techniques have been tested.

Further promotion would be desirable, along with correction of factual errors about the geological materials used, as erroneously given on many websites.



An overview of the statue on the boulder of quartz and ancillary sculptures.



The statue on the boulder of quartz.



Close up of the stained quartz boulder and labradorite trousers, polished Indian granite shoes and unpolished socks.



