

DUN LAOGHAIRE - RATHDOWN – COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Murphystone Quarry		
Other names used for site	Blue Light Quarry, Barnacullia Quarry		
IGH THEME	IGH 15 Economic Geology		
TOWNLAND(S)	Barnacullia		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Stepaside		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	25		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	717862E 724235N (centre of quarry)		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	50	GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO:	16

Outline Site Description

A working granite quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The quarry is extracting granite from the northernmost of three plutons of the Leinster Granite. It was intruded approximately 405 million years ago.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

There is a very long tradition of granite quarrying in the Barnacullia Townland, although other quarries have closed down and become abandoned and flooded. Murphystone is an active business supplying Dublin granite for multiple purposes. The granite is part of the Northern Pluton (classified by geologists as Type 3 muscovite porphyritic). It has large crystals of the mica mineral muscovite set in a equigranular matrix. This is the most northerly of three large plutons or batholiths that together comprise the Leinster Granite. It is approximately 405 million years old.

Site Importance - County Geological Site

As a well-managed active quarry it is a good example of the long tradition of quarrying in the area.

Management/promotion issues

As a working quarry, it is unsuitable for visits, but the management have an interest in the heritage and tradition of stone quarrying and stone working.



From the top of Murphystone granite quarry looking south east towards the workshop.



Murphystone granite quarry from the entrance.



