

GALWAY CITY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Westside Sports Grounds
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH11 Igneous Intrusions
TOWNLAND(S)	Rahoon
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Galway
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	94
ITM CO-ORDINATES	528040E 725700N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 45	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 14
GISCODE	GC012

Outline Site Description

Granite outcrops situated in a public amenity area.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock comprises Murvey Granite, a fine-grained, aphyric, felsic, biotite-poor rock exhibiting a distinct pink colour. The Murvey Granite is part of the late-Caledonian Galway Batholith, emplaced around 410 million years ago (Devonian). A porphyry dyke, striking north-south, cuts one of the large outcrops.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site exhibits easily accessible exposures of Murvey Granite and a north-south oriented cross-cutting porphyry dyke. The dyke exhibits a sharply-chilled margin and the grey colour contrasts sharply with the pink colour of the granite. The dyke is part of a suite of N-S dykes that are abundant in the Murvey Granite in Galway City. Whilst the granite and porphyry outcrops are weathered and relatively smooth surfaced, granite textures are visible in places. The granite 'hill' adjacent to the playground area is a prominent topographical feature on which three large granite boulders are situated. The granite texture and mineral composition is visible in the fresh faces of the boulders. The Murvey Granite in the Galway City area is the easternmost occurrence of this granite type in the Galway Granite Batholith. The granite batholith extends westwards as far as Roundstone, and the Murvey Granite is named after the townland of Murvey at the western foot of Errisbeg Mountain near Roundstone. Murvey Granite in Galway City shares many petrological and geochemical similarities with the pink aphyric granites of Murvey and Cill Chiarán Bay.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This County Geological Site is important in terms of the fine-grained granitic and porphyry features visible in the accessible outcrops. The Murvey Granite in Galway City is the easternmost occurrence of this granite type in the Galway Granite batholith.

Management/promotion issues

Westside Sports Ground is a public amenity park, with a running track, playground, playing fields, and tennis courts. The park is a popular location for sporting and recreational activities in the west of the city, and as such is widely used and well known. The natural state of the granite and porphyry outcrops has been incorporated in the design of the park. This is evident on the granite 'hill', where paths have been installed to provide safe access to the elevated ground. Public seating, a climbing frame and zip-wire enable activities to be enjoyed on the 'summit' of the prominent granite feature. Owing to the site's accessibility and purpose as a recreational facility, this is an ideal location for schoolchildren and students to see igneous rocks up close, and to appreciate the granitic foundation underlying the western parts of Galway City.



Murvey Granite outcrop cut by porphyry dyke (left) on north side of running track. Granite 'hill' in background (east).



Porphyry (grey) cutting Murvey Granite (pink).



Granite boulder sitting atop the granite 'hill'.



Murvey Granite outcrop on 'hill' beside playground.

