

# **GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT**

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Bóthar na Scrathóg</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH11 Igneous intrusions</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Gowla, Gowlan East</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Cashel</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>486415E 739960N</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NO. 44</b>	<b>GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 10, 14</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

This site consists of isolated bedrock outcrops along a minor road through low-lying boggy terrain.

## **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

Ordovician orthogneisses and metagabbros, part of the 475 – 462 Ma Connemara Metagabbro and Orthogneiss Complex.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

These units represent a single, but tectonically disrupted, layered ultramafic to basic intrusion composed mainly of hornblende gabbros. The rocks typically contain hornblende, dominantly of igneous, but partly of metamorphic origin. The metagabbros (matamorphosed gabbros) are exposed in a small disused quarry on the north side of the road, 200 m west of the northeast trending bog track. Elsewhere alongside the road, outcrops of coarse orthogneiss poke out of the otherwise predominantly boggy terrain.

The rocks, which are interpreted as representing the deep level, 'root zone' of a volcanic arc sequence, were intruded into a continental margin below active volcanoes, and subsequently fragmented and faulted into discontinuous segments.

## **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

This County Geological Site is located within the Connemara Bog Complex SAC/SPA (site code 002034). The site contains good, accessible exposures of meta-igneous rocks of the Connemara Metagabbro and Orthogneiss Complex in close proximity to the northern margin of the Galway Batholith.

## **Management/promotion issues**

The site straddles the northwest-southeast road traversing the north part of the Iorras Aithneach peninsula adjoining the R340. The features are of interest to geologists, but otherwise are not worthy of public promotion. Bog-cutting is active in this landscape and is unlikely to have any impact on the integrity of the bedrock.



Boggy terrain and outcrops. Shannvara hill (358m) is in background to the northeast.



Folded fabric in gneiss on south side of road.



Gneiss outcrop 40m from the roadside.



Granite and dark-green metagabbro blocks in a bridge nearby.



Dark-green metagabbro outcrop in the roadside quarry.



