

GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Dogs Bay
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH11 Igneous intrusions
TOWNLAND(S)	Errisbeg West
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Roundstone
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	63
ITM CO-ORDINATES	468870E 738860N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET No. 44	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 10

Outline Site Description

This site consists of a rocky coastal section, on the north side of Dogs Bay.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock here is Errisbeg Townland Granite (ETG), a pink to pale grey coloured, coarse porphyritic granite, with large pink K-feldspar (potassium-feldspar) crystals. The Errisbeg Townland Granite is one of the granite varieties of the late-Caledonian Galway Batholith. The granite has been radiometrically dated to 400 Ma.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Excellent exposures of Errisbeg Townland Granite occur on the northern shore of Dogs Bay. Within the large slab-like outcrops of wave-washed granite is a zone of alternating biotite-rich layering and feldspar-rich layering. The layers typically dip ~35° northwards. The granites are traversed by numerous E-W trending joints and faults.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is an important County Geological Site as it hosts interesting examples of light and dark coloured layering in the Errisbeg Townland Granite.

Management/promotion issues

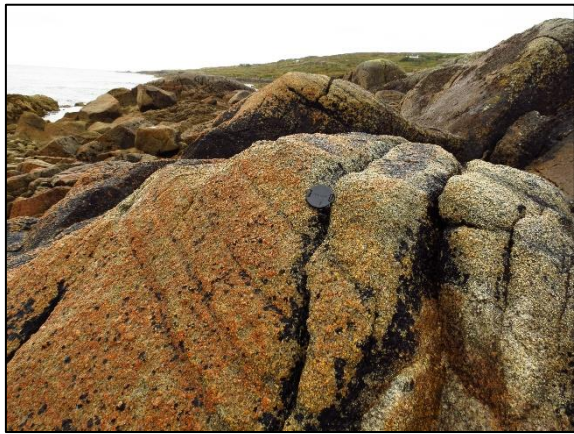
This is a coastal section, and should only be visited during calm sea and weather conditions. The site can be accessed from the Dogs Bay beach parking area *via* a 500m trek along the rocky shoreline. Besides natural coastal erosion, the site is not considered to be under any threat of damage or development. The site is not within any designated conservation or protected area.



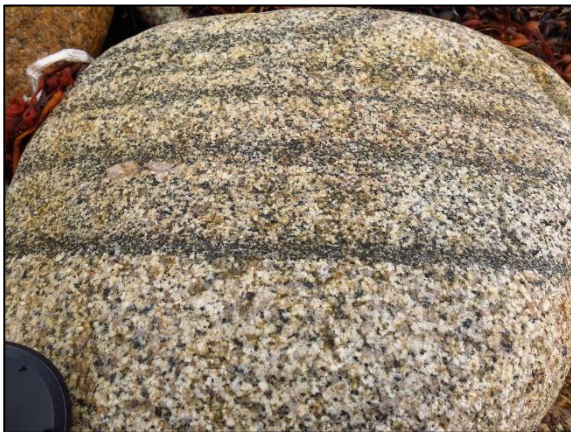
View southeast over Dogs Bay from field above shoreline site and granite layering outcrops.



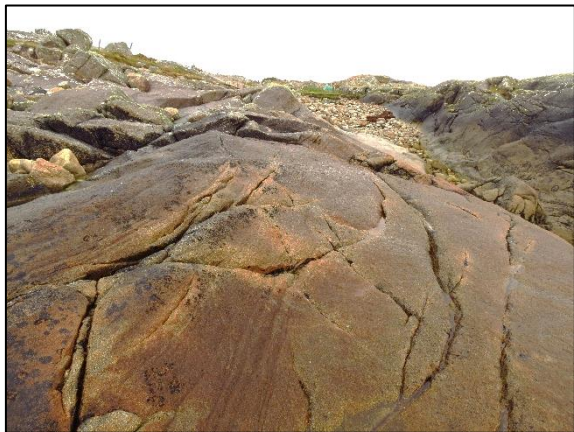
Shore inlet along E-W fault. Layering outcrops on wave-worn exposures on right.



Layering in granite at the Dogs Bay site.



Biotite-rich (dark) and feldspar-rich (light) layering present on numerous boulders in inlet site.



North dipping ($\sim 35^\circ$) layering. View looking east. Inlet visible on right.

