

GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Errisbeg Mountain
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH11 Igneous intrusions
TOWNLAND(S)	Errisbeg West
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Roundstone
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	62
ITM CO-ORDINATES	468550E 739820N (copper mine pond)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET No. 44	GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 10

Outline Site Description

This is a prominent mountain in southwest Connemara, overlooking Roundstone Village.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Errisbeg Mountain is predominantly Lower Palaeozoic amphibolite (Metagabbro and Gneiss Complex; 470 Ma), apart from the lower southern slopes (< 200 mOD) which is Errisbeg Townland Granite (~400 Ma). The granite is a variety of the late-Caledonian Galway Batholith.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Errisbeg (354 m) rises to the west of Roundstone village, on the Errisbeg peninsula. The mountain is almost entirely dark-grey/green amphibolite, except for the southern slopes which are light-coloured Errisbeg Townland Granite. The transition from higher amphibolites to lower granites is clearly visible from vantage points along the R341 Roundstone-Ballyconneely road. The contact can be seen to dip gently from west to east across the southern face of the mountain and extends for ~ 1km along the lower slope (at ~ 120m).

The Errisbeg Townland Granite is a coarse-grained rock, with large pink K-feldspars. The amphibolite is noticeably darker and rich in hornblende. Stoping is a feature in the amphibolite country rock, whereby the older amphibolite was broken up and engulfed in the later magma that cooled to form the light coloured Errisbeg Townland Granite.

The mountain summit, with its Trig Point, affords panoramic views of Connemara: the Maamturks and Twelve Bens to the north, Roundstone Bog and its lake to the north and northwest, Cnoc Mordain and Iorras Aithneach to the east, and the wonderful views of the Dogs Bay-Gurteen Bay tombolo to the south.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Located within the Connemara Bog Complex SAC (002034), this is an important County Geological Site in terms of topography and the contrasting lithologies that are visible from low-ground throughout the Dogs Bay and Murvey area.

Management/promotion issues

Access to the mountain is best made from the west, near the sharp bend in the R341 road near Murvey Quarry. The land is grazed, and proper hillwalking practice should be exercised in terms of closing gates, and leaving no trace. A route up uphill, past the old copper mine pond, will soon lead to the hard-to-miss transition from granite bedrock onto amphibolite.



Errisbeg Mountain viewed from Murvey, looking northeast. Amphibolite-granite contact visible on mountain slopes as transition from higher dark-grey bedrock to lower light-coloured bedrock.



Contact between amphibolite (dark colour) and Errisbeg Townland Granite (light colour).



Stoping in the amphibolite country rock (dark), whereby the country rock is broken up and engulfed in the magma (light coloured granite).



Amphibolite-granite contact.

