

FINGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Rockabill
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME:	IGH 11 (Igneous intrusions)
TOWNLAND(S)	
NEAREST TOWN	Skerries
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	5a
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	332213 262623 = O322 626
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	43 1/2 inch Sheet No. 13

Outline Site Description

Two entire islands.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Caledonian granite.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This site consisting of two islands composed entirely of granite. Analysis of structures within the granite suggests it is of Caledonian age. This means it is closely related to the late Devonian granite plutons of south Dublin and Wicklow, as well as the Kentstown Granite known from gravity surveys to be buried under County Meath, and a minor granite at Drogheda.

Site Importance

The site is a significant outlier of granite from the main Leinster granite plutons. It deserves recognition as a County Geological Site in Fingal.

Management/promotion issues

The site is already a very important nature conservation site for its breeding Roseate Tern population (Rockabill Island pNHA 207 and SPA 4014) and is occupied by Birdwatch Ireland project workers every season. The isolation and existing access restrictions to this nature conservation site are sufficient to protect it. No public promotion of its geology is advised. The guano provides a health risk for fieldwork. No fieldwork is possible during the bird breeding season.



Left: Birdwatch Ireland staff during summer 2007 at the Rockabill Lighthouse.
Middle: Typical exposures of Rockabill granite covered by bird nests and guano during summer 2007.
Right: A view westward to the mainland from Rockabill, with typical rock platform around the lighthouse.

Rockabill

