DUN LAOGHAIRE - RATHDOWN – COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE       Murphystone Quarry
Other names used for site   Blue Light Quarry, Barnacullia Quarry
IGH THEME          IGH 15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)        Barnacullia
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE Stepaside
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER 25
ITM CO-ORDINATES   717862E 724235N (centre of quarry)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 50    GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO: 16

Outline Site Description
A working granite quarry.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
The quarry is extracting granite from the northernmost of three plutons of the Leinster Granite. It was intruded approximately 405 million years ago.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
There is a very long tradition of granite quarrying in the Barnacullia Townland, although other quarries have closed down and become abandoned and flooded. Murphystone is an active business supplying Dublin granite for multiple purposes. The granite is part of the Northern Pluton (classified by geologists as Type 3 muscovite porphyritic). It has large crystals of the mica mineral muscovite set in a equigranular matrix. This is the most northerly of three large plutons or batholiths that together comprise the Leinster Granite. It is approximately 405 million years old.

Site Importance - County Geological Site
As a well-managed active quarry it is a good example of the long tradition of quarrying in the area.

Management/promotion issues
As a working quarry, it is unsuitable for visits, but the management have an interest in the heritage and tradition of stone quarrying and stone working.
From the top of Murphystone granite quarry looking south east towards the workshop.

Murphystone granite quarry from the entrance.