
WLGS 39 Witch Craig Wall and Viewpoint (RIGS) [NS 9908 7275] –(Figure 130), (Figure 131), (Figure 132), (Figure 133), (Figure 134)

[WLC site description](#)

[Part of the Quartz-dolerite sills and dykes group of sites](#)

Other designations: AGLV; WS (Witch Craig Meadow); CP (adjacent to Beecraigs Wood); AWI (Witch Craig Wood); SNWI

Witch Craig Viewpoint is situated above Witch Craig Wood and about 1 km north-east of Cairnpapple Hill. Access is by a path from the car park at the Scottish Korean War Memorial. On the summit a stone shelter ((Figure 130), 131) incorporates 43 rock specimens from locations visible from this site, bringing the geodiversity across the Midland Valley to this one place (Figure 132). The site is a current RIGS site with a RIGS leaflet explaining the stones gathered at the shelter. There is a 'refuge stone' at [NS 9910 7273]. This is one of a number of stones that formed a circle at a distance of a mile around Torphichen Preceptory. All of the space within the circle formed by these stones formed a legal church sanctuary.

(Figure 130) Witch Craig Viewpoint stone shelter [NS 9908 7275] (WLGS 39). Cockleroy can be seen above right-hand end of shelter.

(Figure 131) Witch Craig Viewpoint [NS 9908 7275] (WLGS 39) and view north-west to Lochcote Reservoir.

(Figure 132) Witch Craig Viewpoint display board [NS 9908 7275] (WLGS 39).

(Figure 133) View from Witch Craig Viewpoint [NS 9908 7275] (WLGS 39) towards Grangemouth.

(Figure 134) Torphichen Preceptory 'refuge stone' with cross, Witch Craig [NS 9910 7273] (WLGS 39).



(Figure 130) Witch Craig Viewpoint stone shelter [NS 9908 7275] (WLGS 39). Cockleroy can be seen above right-hand end of shelter.



(Figure 131) Witch Craig Viewpoint [NS 9908 7275] (WLGs 39) and view north-west to Lochcote Reservoir.

The A to "Q" of the stones of Witchcraigs Wall

A Phonolite from Traprain Law, East Lothian
A tough rock, fine grained with tightly packed small crystals. Sun shaped mass that crystallised underground at shallow depth about 340 million years ago.

B Greenstone from Aberfoyle, Highlands
An impetuous name for a rock of igneous origin (basic) which has been altered producing a green mineral called chlorite.

C Slate from Aberfoyle, Highlands
Pressure altered mudstones and split into thin sheets along "cleavage planes" that develop at right angles to the pressure acting on them. The squeezing causes new elongated crystals to grow along this same direction.

D Dalriadan grit from Highlands
A very hard metamorphic rock formed by pressure and heat from a coarse sedimentary sandstone during the formation of the Highlands.

E Fossiliferous limestone from Waldrail (just northeast of here)
A rock made up of calcium carbonate deposited chemically or organically by the accumulation of shells or skeletons of organisms on a tropical sea floor about 325m years ago.

F Basalt - Markie Quarry, Gairloch Hills, East Lothian
Fine-grained dark rock with scattered large crystals spread through from a lava flow about 340m years ago.

G Yellow sandstone from St Mary's Academy, Bathgate
This piece of ashlar sandstone shows how well it can be squared and dressed to make a good fit with other blocks, and was

H Haggis rock (greywacke) from the Southern Uplands
A conglomerate deposited in a long lost Ocean where gravel sized fragments of rocks rapidly accumulated and became cemented together over 420m years ago.

I Gabbro (Teschentite) from Craigie Hill (near the Forth Bridges)
An eye-catching very coarse grained rock that formed as part of a sheet by extra-slow cooling at modest depth about 330m years ago.

J Basalt cobble from the shore at Queensferry
Characteristic black fine-grained rock - evidence of a period of volcanic activity producing a lava flow; possibly 330m years ago.

K Conglomerate from Craigmillar Castle, Edinburgh
Water-worn rounded pebbles and cobbles are cemented together in a sandy matrix with a calcium carbonate cement. Like riverbed deposits in the Highlands today, this ancient river gravel is about 350m years old and was laid down in a desert.

L Burdhouse limestone from Almondell Country Park, West Lothian
A widespread local limestone bed much used in the past for the preparation of lime for agriculture, limewash and building. Deposited in a warm, almost tropical lake mainly by algal blooms about 330m years ago.

M Carnethy Porphyry from Carnethy Hill, Pentlands
This lava flow contains prominent elongated crystals aligned in the direction of the flow in the molten material just before solidification, about 410m years ago.

N Greywacke Shale from Southern Uplands
A consolidated clay where a layering is produced by repeated influxes of sand on to the muddy bed of a long lost ocean over 420m years ago.

O Granite from Broadlaw, Midlothian
The nearest granite to the Lothians and Edinburgh from the northern edge of the Moorfoot Hills. Coarse-grained rock that cooled slowly deep underground about 410m years ago.

P Spent Shale from Oakbank
Local oil shale beds contain hydrocarbons. When heated above 500 degrees Celsius a mixture of oils was obtained and waste shale tipped as bings, a familiar feature of the Bathgate landscape.

Q Glacial Erratic from the Highlands
This boulder has been carried by the ice sheet which covered Scotland during the last 2 million years. It is probably a metamorphic rock from the Highlands. It has been rounded and scratched during its journey in the ice. The name "erratic" means "wanderer".

Stone work by Foundation Stone Telephone: 01764 670603
Photomaps and interpretation by Alan Gill Hamilton Orale Interpretive Design, Tel: 01738 808 229

This enclosure takes its shape from a sheep fold and offers panoramic views from its shelter. Its structure also reflects the geology of the hills around you - built into it are 43 special rocks collected from across central Scotland. To appreciate the diversity of Scotland's geological wealth the panels are to help you identify what they are and where they came from. Each stone is identified by a letter on the wall and on the panel above.

(Figure 132) Witch Craig Viewpoint display board [NS 9908 7275] (WLGs 39).



(Figure 133) View from Witch Craig Viewpoint [NS 9908 7275] (WLGS 39) towards Grangemouth.



(Figure 134) Torphichen Preceptory 'refuge stone' with cross, Witch Craig [NS 9910 7273] (WLGS 39).