

# Salt Hill Story Map



## This story map was created using the Irish Townland and Historical Interactive Map Viewer.

This viewer displays locations of historical features such as mills or historic flood plains, and historical maps ranging from the 1830s to 1930s, including the Historic 1st Edition 6 Inch mapping.

The viewer also displays more recent datasets such as high-resolution aerial imagery and detailed base maps.

The geospatial data is provided by MapGenie platform.

The viewer enables users to compare the historical maps with current maps or aerial imagery using the Transparency Slider or the Swipe Function. It is also possible for users to search for particular historical map sheets, townlands or location by address.

You can create your own Story Map here:

<https://osi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index>.

### Engage, Educate And Inspire About Galway Atlantaquaria

Welcome to Galway Atlantaquaria, a Multi-Award-Winning Attraction, located in the Heart of Salthill, on the shores of Galway Bay, the Blue Heart of the Wild Atlantic Way.

Our Aquarium cares for over 100 Native Aquatic Species from Ireland's Lakes, Rivers, and Ocean. Our Exhibits open up the 'Often Invisible' World of Aquatic Life that surrounds our shores.

#### Key features of the Aquarium include;

Species native to Ireland.  
Exhibits that are unique to Ireland's fishing heritage.  
Education & Conservation exhibits, combined with Ocean Literacy.

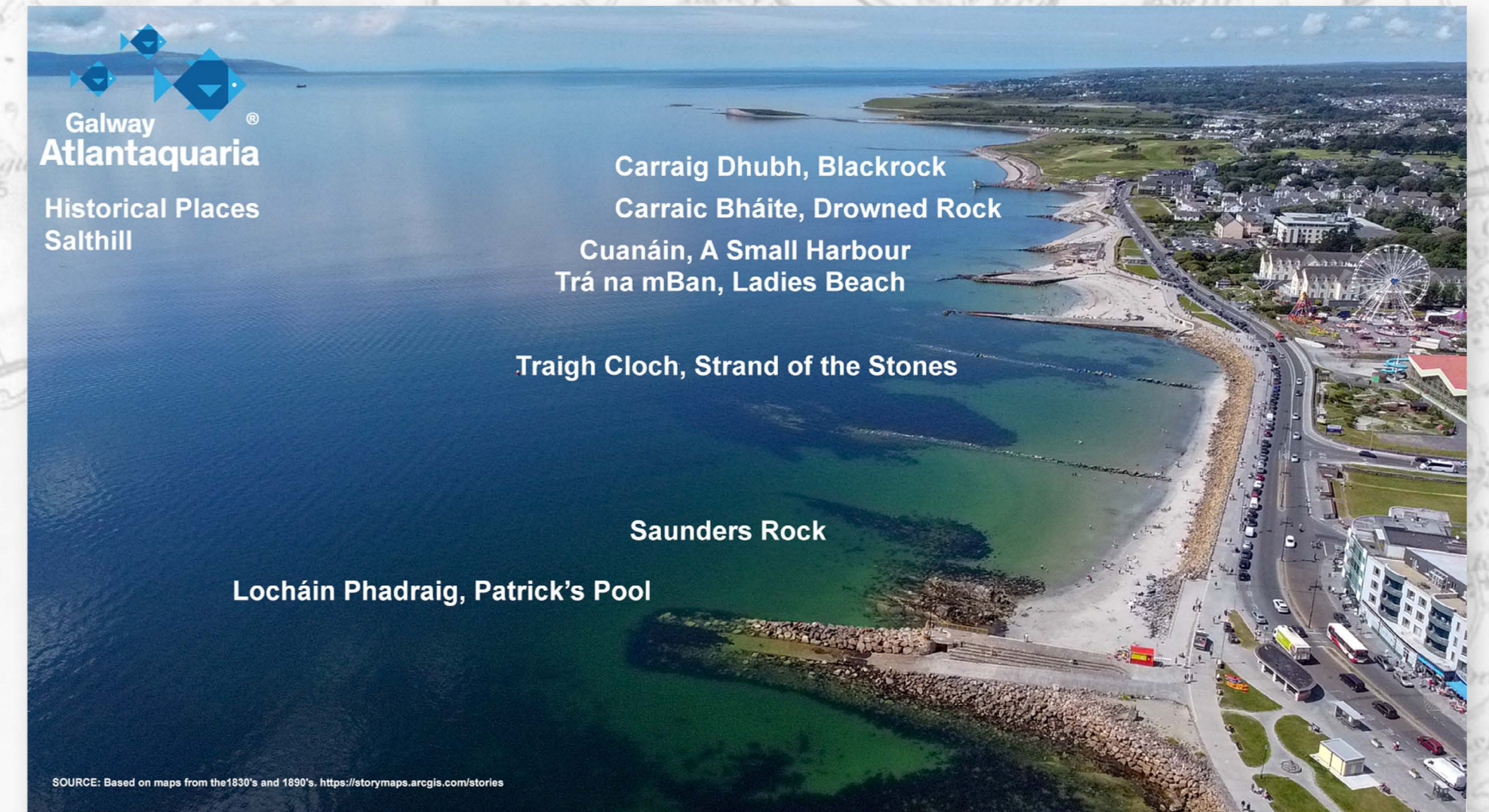
#### Why Create A Story Map?

In creating this story map we thought it was a great idea to link the powerful mapping tools provided by Irish Townland and Historical Interactive Map Viewer. and also highlight some of Salthill's interesting leagacy and connection to the sea.

We hope you enjoy our Salthill Story Map.

Learn More About The Aquarium, see;


[www.nationalaquarium.ie](http://www.nationalaquarium.ie)



Salthill (Bóthar na Trá) - The name "Salthill" itself comes from the Irish Bóthar na Trá, meaning "Road by the Beach." Historically, it was a small fishing village before becoming a popular seaside resort.


Across the beachfront of Salthill, there is a lot of history to be discovered.

## LEGEND

 **Murvey Granite**  
Non-porphyrific  
syenogranite; pink

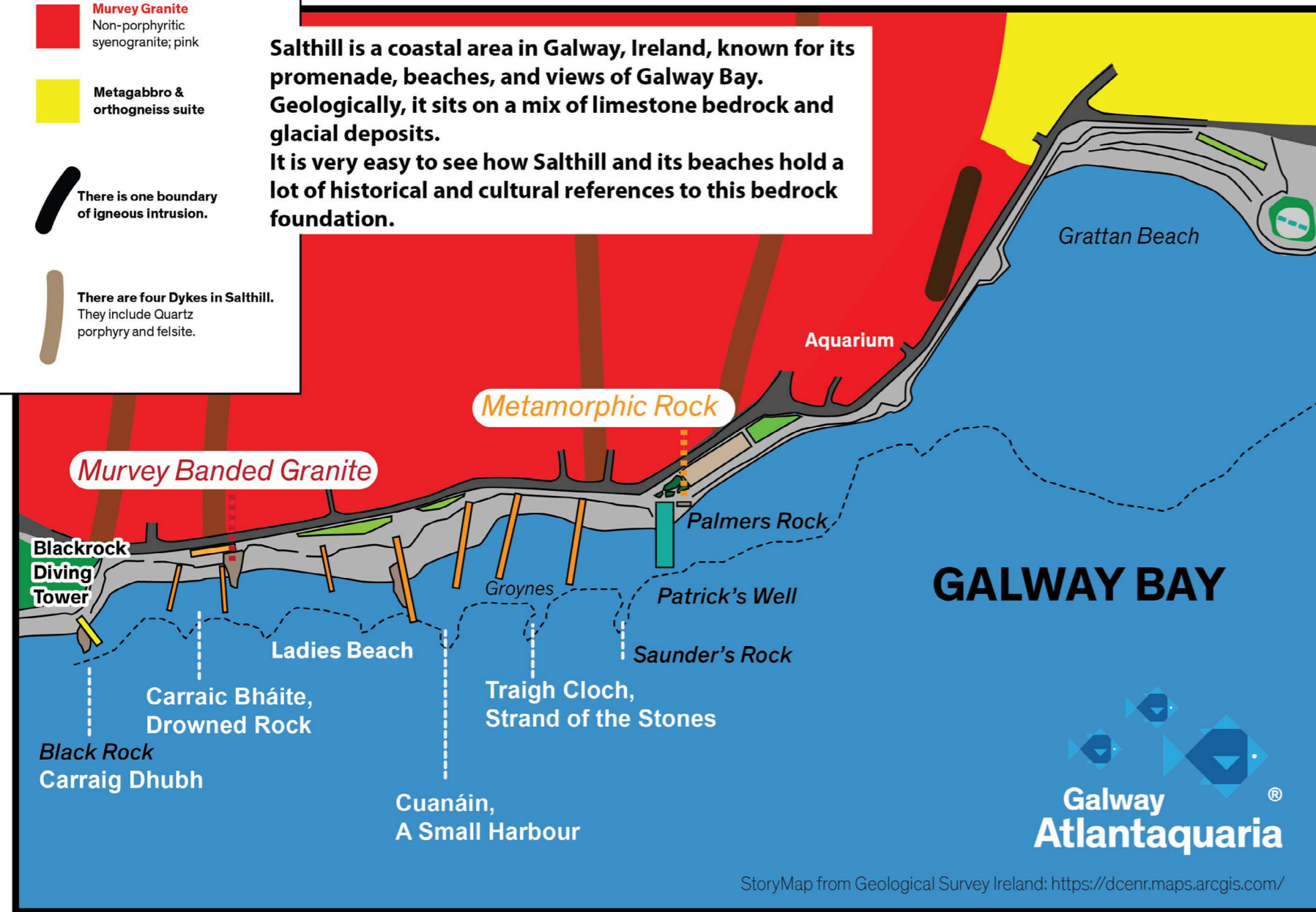
 **Metagabbro & orthogneiss suite**

 There is one boundary  
of igneous intrusion.

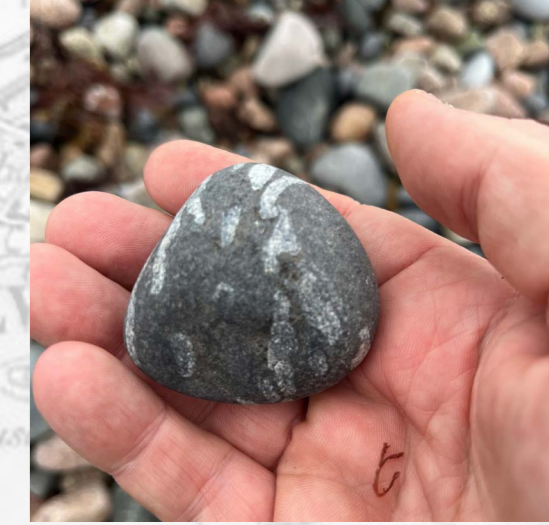
 There are four Dykes in Salthill.  
They include Quartz  
porphyry and felsite.

## GEOLOGY & PLACENAME TRAIL

Salthill is a coastal area in Galway, Ireland, known for its promenade, beaches, and views of Galway Bay. Geologically, it sits on a mix of limestone bedrock and glacial deposits. It is very easy to see how Salthill and its beaches hold a lot of historical and cultural references to this bedrock foundation.



Geology & Fossils in Salthill.



# Let's explore Grattan Beach

**Grattan Beach in Salthill, Galway City, has a rich history dating back to the 19th century.**

In the early 1800s, the sea encroached inland as far as Sea Road and Nile Lodge, with the area near Recorder's Quay being affected too. In 1863, Lady Grattan, a relative of Henry Grattan, funded the construction of Grattan Road and an accompanying embankment to reclaim approximately 28 acres of swampy land. This project not only transformed the landscape of Salthill/Grattan but also provided employment for over 200 laborers and 12 to 14 masons during a period of distress because of joblessness in Galway.

The newly constructed road, sometimes referred to as the "Tenpenny Road" due to the weekly wage paid to workers, significantly enhanced access to Salthill and contributed to its development as a favored seaside destination.

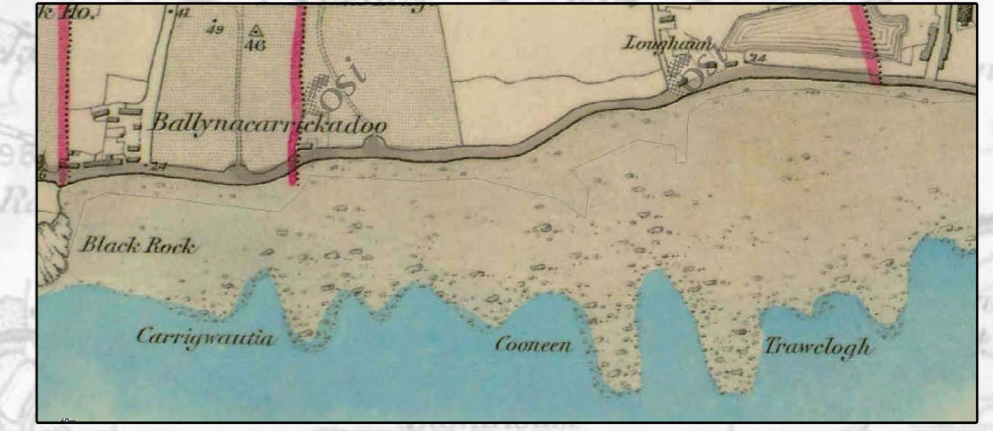
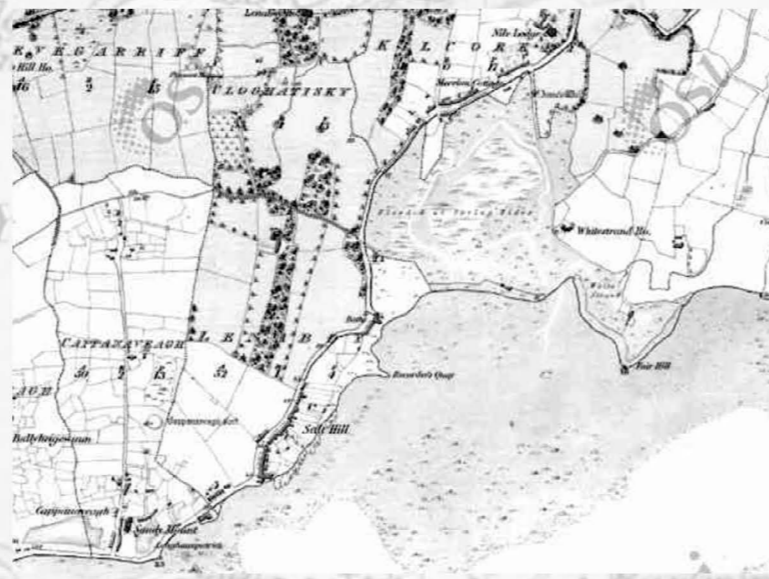
In the early 1900s, the promenade was a narrow, rough roadway without seats or flowerbeds, and the beach was largely covered with rocks and seaweed. Improvements began in the 1940s, leading to the promenade we recognize today.

In February 1957, a violent storm ('Oíche na Goitre Móire, ná Deireadh an Tsaoil - The Night of the Big Wind, or the End of the World') caused significant damage along Grattan Road. The high sandbank on the seaward side collapsed, allowing seawater to flood homes and causing extensive property damage.

Advertiser

Today, Grattan Road and its adjacent beach serve as both a recreational area and an educational resource.

**Grattan Beach, in particular, is recognized as a model for ocean literacy, offering opportunities to learn about biodiversity, tides, and conservation.**



The Salthill Promenade, affectionately known as "the Prom," was inaugurated in 1856, providing locals and visitors with a scenic walkway along Galway Bay. Initially, the beach was predominantly rocky and covered with seaweed.

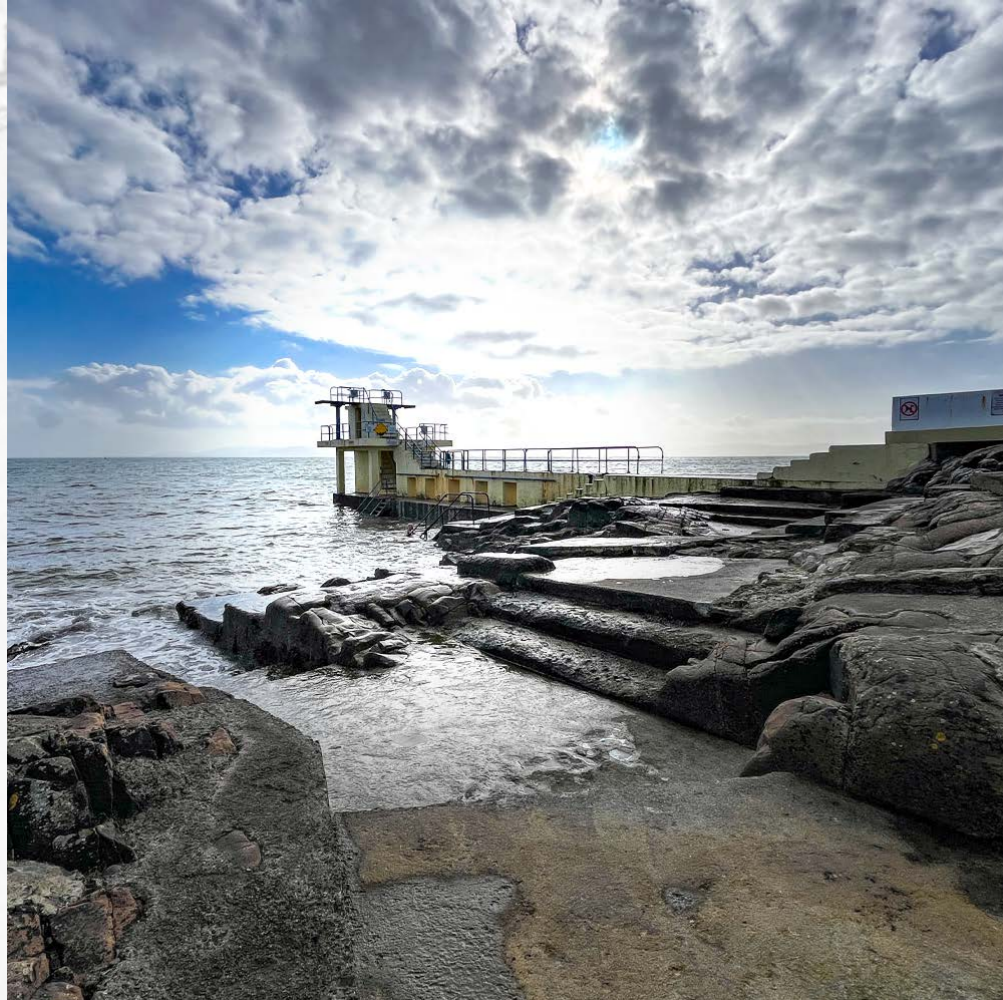
Efforts to enhance its appeal included constructing breakwaters and groynes to manage tidal actions and prevent flooding.

The Salthill Development Association invested in removing rocks and stones, gradually transforming the shoreline into a more inviting sandy beach.

## Blackrock Diving Tower and Swimming Facilities

Swimming has long been a cherished activity in Salthill.

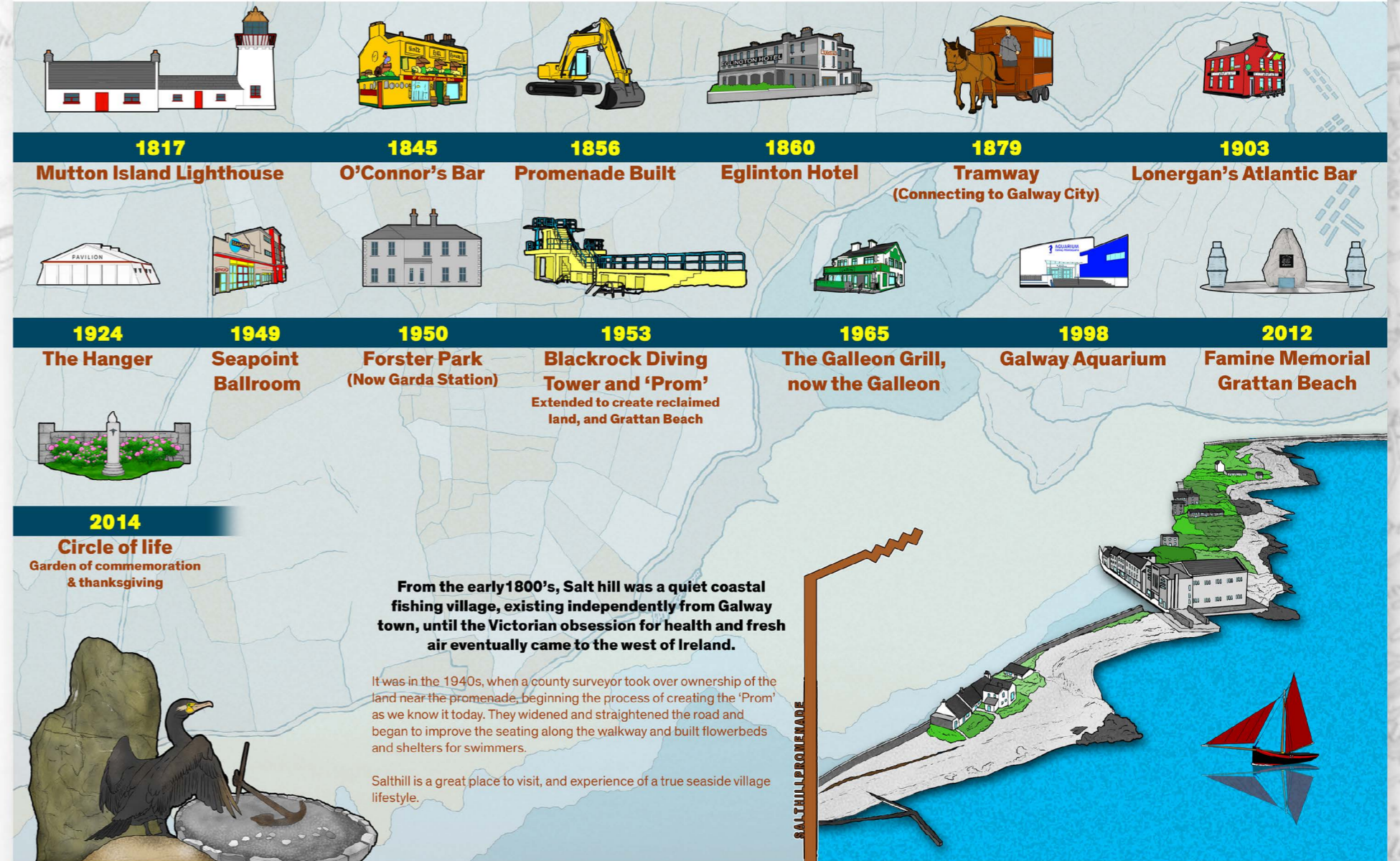
In 1885, a wooden structure was erected at Blackrock to facilitate sea access for swimmers. Despite initial resistance from local businesses, its popularity led to the construction of the iconic Blackrock Diving Tower in 1953, designed by Bart Faherty. This structure has become emblematic of Salthill and remains a favored spot for both locals and tourists.



## A SALT HILL STORY MAP

In 1819, Salt Hill becomes Salthill

Visit incredible Salthill in County Galway and make a splash at the giant Leisureland complex, with its large indoor heated swimming pool. Enjoy the crisp breeze with a relaxing stroll along Ireland's longest promenade and appreciate the stunning views of Galway Bay. Spend some time in nearby Quincentennial Park and view the stunning Circle of Life National Organ Donor Commemorative Garden, it celebrates the lives and generosity of organ donors.



**Hallaí Damhsa BALLROOMS**

**TUAM: Ireland's Showband Capital**

**Seóbhannaí SHOWbands**

**THE DANCE PAVILION SALTHILL**

**SEAPoint BALLROOM & RESTAURANT**

**THE HANGAR**



**Seapoint Leisure – An Iconic Landmark Of Salthill - Established in 1949**

Seapoint Ballroom was officially opened at 10pm on July 17th, 1949 by Joe Costelloe, Mayor of Galway. Noel Finan bought the site from Jim and Mary Cremin who were brother and sister. They ran a famous seawater baths there, a kind of health spa of its day. At the time, Salthill was a small village with a few hotels, B&Bs and shops. It also had the Hangar which was run by John Allen, but it closed down in Race Week when dancing moved into a marquee in Eyre Square. At the time it was 1/6 into the Hangar for women and 1/9 for men.



Noel Finan realised that young people coming to Salthill wanted something more than the salt air and to be clean. -- <https://www.kennys.ie/old-galway/>

Night of the Big Wind, or The End of the World  
By Ronnie O'Gorman  
The 'Oíche na Goitre Móire, ná Deireadh an Tsaoil - The Night of the Big Wind, or the End of the World'.

Oíche na Gaoithe Móire ,

Ná Deireadh an Tsaoil

Ar oíche ceann an dá lá dhéag,

Béidh cuimhne grind go h-éag

Is iomaí milte d'éag,

I mbaile, muir's tír.

Oíche gaoithe móire,

Oíche stoirme's dóite,

A déan (?) dílte, crainnte a' stróiceadh

Agus obair ag na satir.

The Night of the Big Wind

Or The End of the World

The night of Epiphany

Will be clearly remembered forever,

Many thousands perished

At home, at sea and abroad.

It was a night of Big Wind,

A night of storm and burning,

That caused floods, tore trees to shreds,

And made work for craftsmen.\*

NOTES: \* Collected by Ciarán Mac Mathúna of RTE, from Éamon MacAoidh of Doega, Achill. Sources this week include Lisa Shields and Denis Fitzgerald, Meteorological Service, Dublin.

Poem by Michael Burke of Esker, near A thenry, Co Galway,

# Salt Hill Story Map

