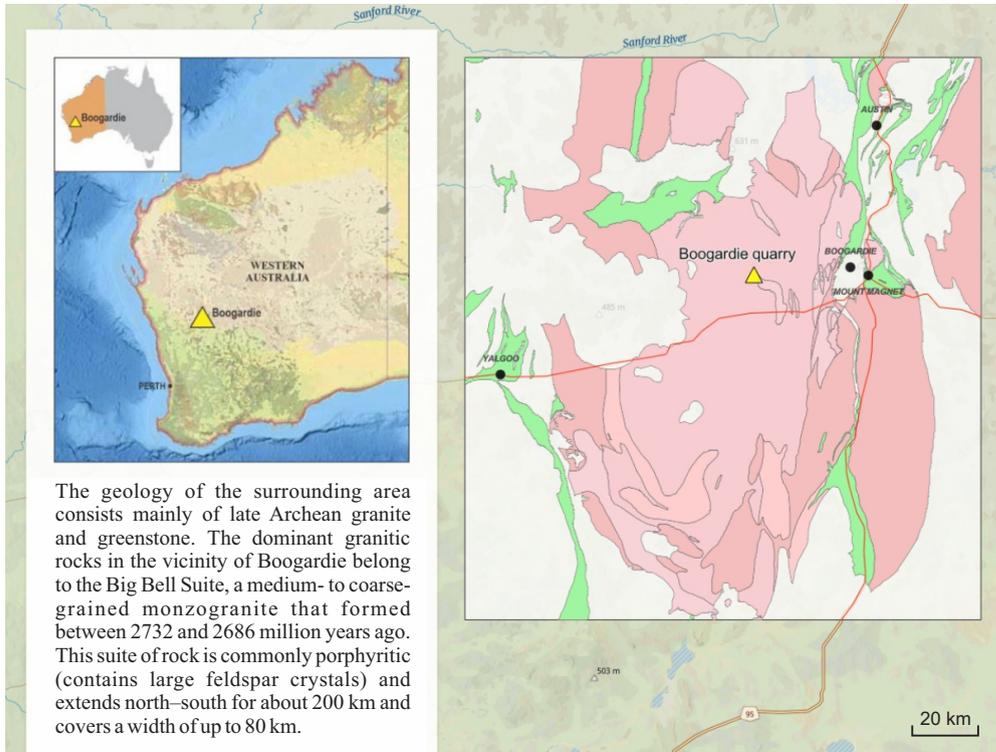


Boogardie Orbicular Granite

The **Boogardie Orbicular Granite – the oldest in the world** is published by the Geological Survey of Western Australia in the Geology Explorer series.

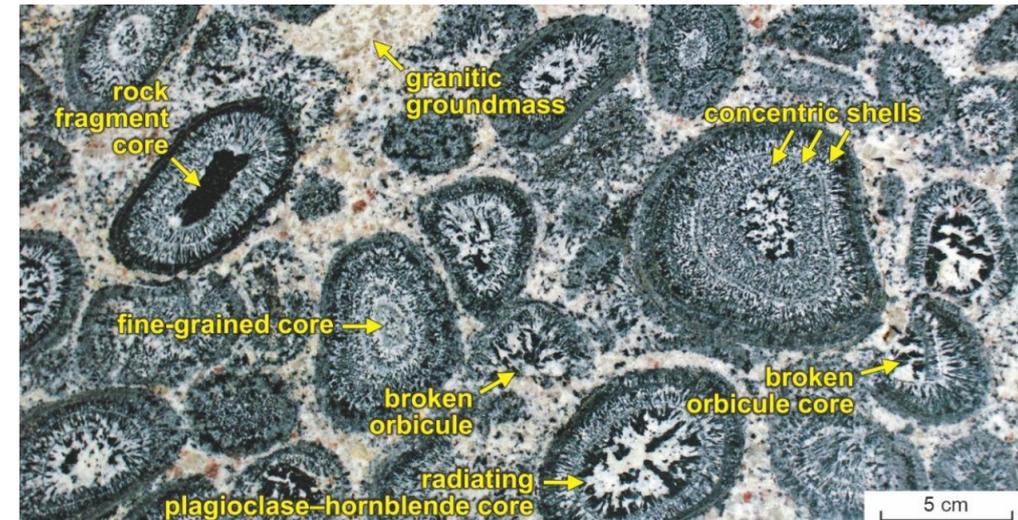
This StoryMap explores how this unusual and spectacular rock formed, and describes its features and geological setting. The Boogardie Orbicular Granite was the Geological Society of Australia's Rock of the Month for March 2013, and large blocks of it are at Geoscience Australia in Canberra, waiting to be inducted into the National Rock Garden. The National Museum of Scotland has a hefty slab on display, and spheres of it, nearly a metre in diameter, rotate on plinths around the city of Perth.

Orbicular granite is an unusual type of granite, very different in character to the rock many of us are familiar with as kitchen bench tops or decorative stone in buildings. Most granite is light coloured with an even distribution of crystals ranging from a few millimetres to about 2 cm in size; but orbicular granite contains abundant subspherical inclusions called orbicules which are composed of concentric shells of radiating light and dark crystals.



The geology of the surrounding area consists mainly of late Archean granite and greenstone. The dominant granitic rocks in the vicinity of Boogardie belong to the Big Bell Suite, a medium- to coarse-grained monzogranite that formed between 2732 and 2686 million years ago. This suite of rock is commonly porphyritic (contains large feldspar crystals) and extends north-south for about 200 km and covers a width of up to 80 km.

▲ Location of the Boogardie Quarry, Western Australia



▲ Some of the most common orbicule core structures

◀ Boogardie Quarry

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Enquiries to publications@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Free (online): <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9b2b0a73c1f24a65bbe536d18ae487d5>



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