

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Brow Head Mine		
Other names used for site	Mallavoge, Mullavoge		
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology, IGH6 Mineralogy		
TOWNLAND(S)	Mallavoge		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Crookhaven		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	152		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	477220E 523660N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	88	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	24
GIS CODE	CK026		

Outline Site Description

Blanket bog and rough pasture on a flat headland overlooking the sea.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Mineralized quartz veins cutting Upper Devonian sandstone and mudstone of the Toe Head Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Brow Head Mine is four kilometres southwest of and along-strike from Crookhaven Mine, and was opened on the same mineralized vein system. It was worked intermittently between 1854 and 1865 and produced hundreds of tonnes of c. 10 % copper ore. In 1906, a further two tonnes of 22 % copper ore were mined. The main ore mineral was chalcopyrite and the veins also contained bornite and malachite.

Mine features still remaining on the site as described in a GSI_EPA report published in 2010 include an intact, two-story terrace of three houses, including the mine manager's house and the counting house, the ruins of an engine house and miners' cottages, a powder house (magazine), two shafts, mine waste heaps, a cobbled dressing floor, a reservoir and processing (settlement) ponds containing fine mine waste. Three adits in the cliff-face are accessible only by rope.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Though not one of the larger West Cork copper mines, the mine site at Brow Head contains a range of reasonably well-preserved features rarely observed together on other mine sites in the region.

Management/promotion issues

Access to the site is via a 0.5 km-long track that starts at the end of the sealed road that leads to the old watch tower at Brow Head, and the remains of Marconi's signalling station on the summit of the peninsula. Surprisingly, as is the case for Crookhaven Mine, there is no obvious publicity about Brow Head Mine in the area. At Galley Cove Beach, at the start of the road leading to the peninsula, a signboard provides a history of Marconi's activities in the area in the early 20th century but there is no mention of the mine site. Consideration could be given to erecting a signboard at this location to provide a short, illustrated history of the mine.

[Note: at the time of the site visit for this audit, the peninsula was covered in thick fog, preventing safe access to the site. Photos taken in 2007 as part of the HMS-IRC survey are used below for illustration.]



Mine manager's house (right) and count house (left) at Brow Head Mine.



Remains of engine house at Brow Head Mine.



Remains of powder house (magazine) at Brow Head Mine.



Reservoir (brown area) at Brow Head with watch tower visible in background right.



Cobbled dressing floor at Brow Head Mine.

