

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Caminches Mine		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology, IGH6 Mineralogy		
TOWNLAND(S)	Caminches, Cloan		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Allihies		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	114		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	459400E 545620N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	84	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	24
GIS CODE	CK028		

Outline Site Description

Hillside site with areas of grassland, forestry, rock exposure and waste rock.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Mineralized quartz veins cutting Upper Devonian red and green sandstone and siltstone of the Cahah Mountain Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Caminches Mine was one of the earlier operations to commence in the Allihies district in West Cork, with mining beginning in 1818. Mining continued here intermittently until the 1870s, although most of the ore produced was raised by the 1840s. The mine site is at the northern end of the 2 km-long Caminches lode that runs south to Keeloge. The ore was mined to a depth of almost 300 m. The site slopes southwest over a distance of c. 400 m. The old 6-inch maps show numerous shafts, most of which can still be identified on the ground at the site. Two engine houses are marked on the maps at the northern end of the site but the ruins of buildings observed there do not appear to be those of engine houses, nor do their positions correspond to those of engine houses marked on the old maps. Halfway down the slope, an open stope discharges mine water to a nearby ditch. Some substantial waste heaps remain in the area of what may have been an engine shaft. The remainder of the site is under grass or a mixture of exposed bedrock, heath and forestry.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Caminches Mine was one of the earlier mines to open in the Allihies district. While the buildings observed on site are of uncertain function, there are several shafts as well as an open stope that provides a relatively accessible view of mined bedrock.

Management/promotion issues

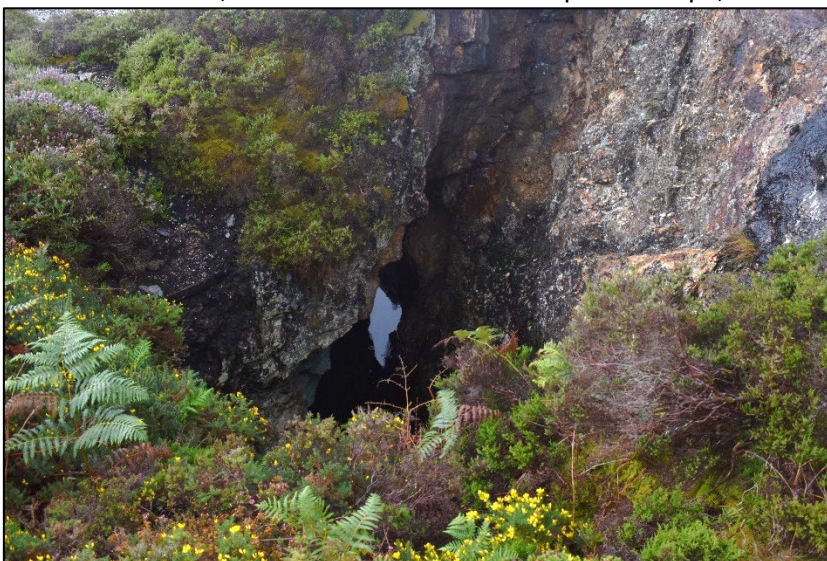
The site is readily accessible on foot by the unpaved track leading from the Allihies water plant. It is on the Beara-Breifne Way / Slí Bheara-Breifne and is marked by a signboard beside the road beside the ruined buildings at the northeastern end of the site. It is included in the Allihies Copper Mine trail as described on the Copper Mine Museum map and website, and as such does not require further promotion.



Ruins of building at Caminches Mine.



Open stope at Caminches Mine, view from east of southern part of stope, with old warning sign.



Open stope at Caminches Mine, view southwards.

