

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Dhurode Mine	
Other names used for site	Dhurode Copper Mine	
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology, IGH6 Mineralogy	
TOWNLAND(S)	Carrigacat and Milleen	
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Schull	
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	147	
ITM CO-ORDINATES	478060E 530740N	
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	88	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 24
GIS CODE	CK042	

Outline Site Description

Abandoned copper mine set in a valley on the north side of the Mizen Peninsula.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Bedrock is Old Red Sandstone and comprises Upper Devonian mudstone and siltstone of the Castlehaven Formation, sandstone of the Toe Head Formation, and sandstone of the Old Head Sandstone Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Dhurode Mine is situated on the north side of the Mizen Peninsula, 4 km northwest of Goleen, where the ENE-WSW trending Dhurode Fault intersects the coastline. The main vein hosting copper ore (c. 2 m thick) is exposed in the sea cliff. Levels were driven along this vein ('Great Counter Lode') at varying depths of c. 20 m, 35 m, and 50 m for lengths of 275 m. Several shafts were sunk, the locations of which are marked today by concrete capping. A large WSW-ENE trending opencast working on the south side of Coosnagow exhibits impressive quartz mineralisation. Spoil heaps are present around the site. An impressive powder house, the remains of the stamps building near the waterfall, and ruins of a house are only extant buildings at Dhurode Mine.

Dhurode Mine was worked intermittently between 1843 and 1868. Work at the mine was reactivated at the turn of twentieth century. Varying outputs of between 200 tons to 350 tonnes of ore are documented in various mine reports for the mid-nineteenth century. The site is noted for chalcopyrite (GSI Mineral Locality 2845) and is recorded as an '*ENE trending vein containing chalcopyrite, arsenopyrite, galena, bornite, calcite, dolomite and molybdenite. Au also recorded. The lode is centred on an ESE trending fault between the Toe Head and Castlehavens Fmns.*'. Other mineral localities (chalcopyrite and quartz) have been recorded in the area. The site includes four boreholes (drilled in 1988) listed in the GSI Mineral Boreholes database (MinLocs 2845). Copper ores from Dhurode Mine were among the exhibits of Mining and Mineral Products exhibited in the Great Hall at the Great Industrial Exhibition, Dublin in 1853.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is an important site, containing a range of visible mine features including a well-preserved powder house, shafts, an open cast excavation and mine waste heaps containing examples of mineralization.

Management/promotion issues

Dhurode Mine is one of the West Cork copper mines that were worked during the nineteenth century. The powder house and the ivy-covered stamps building require conservation works. Dhurode Mine deserves inclusion in any promotional literature or media relating to the mining and industrial history of the region. The site is on private land and is not suitable for public promotion as a visitor site.



Opencast working viewed looking southwest over site. Bird Island lying offshore in Dunmanus Bay.



Dhurode Mine powder house.



Concrete capping on mine-shaft.



Spoil heaps at Dhurode Mine.

