

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Dooneen Mine		
Other names used for site	Duneen		
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology, IGH6 Mineralogy		
TOWNLAND(S)	Allihies		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Allihies		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	114		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	457750E 546000N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	84	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	24
GIS CODE	CK043		

Outline Site Description

Cliff-top site on west of road and grassed area to east.

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

Dooneen Mine was opened in 1812, the first mine to be developed in the Allihies district. The ore was worked from an east-west-trending, 9 m-wide quartz vein that forms a narrow promontory jutting out into the sea from the cliff face. The vein is stained by bright green malachite, a strong visual sign of the presence of copper. The mine was beset by problems from the start, including flooding, corrosion of the steam engine and poor yields, and was succeeded a few years later by the Mountain Mine, yet it nevertheless continued in production until 1838.

Dooneen Mine site is one of the more accessible of the Allihies district sites and its main features remain visible, albeit the mine buildings exist only at footprint level. Apart from the quartz vein extending from the cliff face, the western part of the site includes two fenced shafts (named Footway and Crases's), a dressing floor, extensive waste heaps and, at beach level, two adits. On the eastern side of the road are the remains of the engine house, engine shaft, dressing floor and reservoir. A small building 50 m southeast of the engine house may have served as a magazine.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Dooneen Mine is significant as the first of Puxley's Allihies district mine sites to commence operations, in 1812. It is readily accessible and all its important original features are still present. Unlike most mines at Allihies, where the ore occurred at depth, at Dooneen visible evidence of mineralization can be observed in the vein that extends out from the cliff.

Management/promotion issues

The site is readily accessible from the Allihies-Eyeries road, c. 1 km north of Allihies village. A Wild Atlantic Way signboard in the small adjacent lay-by provides a brief overview of the mine's history. It is included in the Allihies Copper Mine trail as described on the Copper Mine Museum map and website. It does not require further promotion.



Malachite staining on exposed vein extending out from cliff face. The fenced Footway shaft is visible to the left.



Remains of engine house at Dooneen Mine in fenced area east of road, with base of chimney in background (left).



Dressing floor at Dooneen Mine, west of the Footway shaft.

