

CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Kealogue Mine (North)		
Other names used for site	Kealogue, Keelogue, Keelogue		
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology, IGH6 Mineralogy		
TOWNLAND(S)	Kealogue		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Allihies		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	114		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	458950E 544550N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	84	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	24
GIS CODE	CK055		

Outline Site Description

Grassland site on two levels separated by steep slope.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Upper Devonian red and green sandstone and siltstone of the Caha Mountain Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Kealogue Mine was developed on the southern part of the 2 km-long Caminches lode, south of the Ballydonegan River. A series of shafts and engine houses that extends for almost one kilometre is here subdivided into two sites, Kealogue Mine (North) and Kealogue Mine (South), a subdivision that is further reflected in the recent collapse of a shaft that has closed the road running between the northern and southern parts of Kealogue.

Kealogue Mine was opened in 1842 and was one of the richer mines in Allihies, continuing to produce ore until its closure in 1882. Kealogue Mine (North) is centred on Puxley's Engine House, a well-preserved structure that housed a steam engine used for pumping water from the 400 m-deep shaft located immediately below the bob wall at the rear (west side) of the engine house. Two openings in the south wall may have been conduits for the release of smoke but there is no trace of a chimney on the site. Immediately behind the shaft the ground falls steeply away along a cliff formed by waste rock that was piled between the engine shaft and another shaft 40 m to the west. Much of this site is now grassed but the waste rock is well exposed along the steep slope below the engine house. Apart from fenced shafts, further traces of mining are not readily observed in an area largely given over to pasture.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Kealogue Mine was the last of the significant producing mines to open in the Allihies district. The Kealogue Mine (North) site contains Puxley's Engine House and large deposits of mine waste, as well as several fenced shafts. Puxley's Engine House is, along with the Man Engine House and Coom Engine House, one of only three well-preserved engine houses in the Allihies district.

Management/promotion issues

The site is readily accessible via a stile from the adjacent road. It is on the Beara-Breifne Way / Slí Bheara-Breifne and a signboard beside the road provides an 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.



General view of Kealogue Mine (North), view from the southeast.



Puxley's engine house, view from west of the bob wall. The fenced engine shaft is in foreground.



View westwards from beside the engine shaft along steep bank of mine waste, with a second fenced shaft visible 40 m distant.

