

# CORK - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Mountain Mine</b>		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH15 Economic Geology, IGH6 Mineralogy</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Cloan</b>		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Allihies</b>		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>114</b>		
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>459000E 545950N (Man Engine House)</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>GIS CODE</b>	<b>CK067</b>		

## **Outline Site Description**

Large site on flanks of steep hill with extensive rock exposure.

## **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**

Mountain Mine is located on the side of the mountain a few hundred metres northeast of Allihies village. It was the largest and most productive mine in the Allihies district and was in continuous operation between 1813 and 1882. Production resumed in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century before final cessation of mining in 1930. A final period of detailed exploration in the 1950s by Can Erin indicated the remaining ore was sub-economic. The main copper ore mineral is chalcopyrite.

The workings at Mountain Mine were extremely extensive. Mining of the vein system initially began at the surface before continuing underground to a depth of over 400 m, leaving large, deep excavations at the surface that extend east-west along the line of the main ore vein. The Man Engine house is the only example in Ireland of an engine house built to transport miners to and from the underground workings, as opposed to raising ore or pumping out water, and was conserved in 2004.

The site is very large and includes the iconic Cornish Man engine house, built in 1862, the ruins of a crushing mill, several adits and shafts, the remains of managers' accommodation (the "Cornish village"), several reservoirs and waste heaps.

## **Site Importance – County Geological Site; recommended for Geological NHA**

Mountain Mine formed the core of Puxley's Berehaven Copper Mines. The extensive remains of mining, including the iconic Man Engine house as well as large open stopes with visibly mineralized quartz veins, make this one of the most impressive 19<sup>th</sup>-century mine sites in Ireland.

## **Management/promotion issues**

The site is traversed by the Allihies-Urhin road and is readily accessible. It is part of the Allihies Copper Mine trail as described on the Copper Mine Museum map and website. It is also on the Beara-Breifne Way walking route. It is popular with visitors. Several signboards around the site illustrate aspects of the mine's operation and history. It does not require further promotion.



Man Engine House, view towards south.



Remains of the crusher house.



Entrance to Main Adit, viewed from south.



General view of open stope northwest of Man Engine house showing quartz vein with copper oxide staining.



Largest reservoir on Mountain Mine site, viewed westwards from road west of Man Engine house. Ore dressing floors (light brown colour) can be discerned in two locations around the edge of the reservoir.

