

# DUN LAOGHAIRE - RATHDOWN – COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Ballycorus</b>		
<b>OTHER NAME(S)</b>			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH 6 Mineralogy, IGH15 Economic Geology</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Ballycorus</b>		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Shankill</b>		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>26</b>		
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>722400E 720930N (centre of site)</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO:</b>	<b>16</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

Historic mine site, with opencast workings and smelter chimney and flue.

## **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

The mineralisation at Ballycorus is probably of the same age as mineral veins at Glendalough and Glendasan, associated with the emplacement of the Leinster Granite about 405 million years ago. The main ore was galena.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The mine working at Ballycorus was actually short lived, but the associated smelter and shot towers (for making gunshot pellets) built on the strength of the development of the mine, were then sustained for decades by ore sourced from Wicklow. Although there were underground shafts on the mineral veins, there is none now visible. The main opencast scar is unvegetated due to metal toxicity to plants. The main ore was galena, but associated minerals recorded from here include barite, linarite, cerussite, silver, pyromorphite and quartz.

Of particular note here is the tall stone chimney, which originally had a brick top, and which is at the uphill end of a stone built flue around 1.6 km long. As the original fumes from the lead smelter in the valley were poisoning livestock and causing problems, the long flue and chimney were built to disperse the lead fumes and to condense more lead on the flue walls. Periodically the lead condensed on the walls could be scraped off and added to production.

## **Site Importance - County Geological Site**

The site is regularly used by geological groups for education, and is of great value as a geological heritage and local industrial heritage site in the county.

## **Management/promotion issues**

The site includes the chimney and part of the flue, but the original leadworks and a separate complex of buildings with shot tower are not included. These are all on private property and are dwellings or business premises. They should ideally be preserved, but this is best addressed through other mechanisms than CGS, such as Architectural Conservation Areas. The main buildings are already listed in the Record of Protected Structures:

1-3 Ballycorus Cottages, Mine Hill Lane – No. 1814

Ledville Complex House – No. 1812

Flue – No. 1841

Lead Mine Complex – No. 1848

Complex house – No. 1849

Ballycorus Chimney and flue - No 1852

The area is well used by walkers, and forms part of the trails around Carrickgollogan and Barnaslingan Woods, but it is not clear if the mine site is within Coillte land or not.



A view of the main opencast working, looking downhill, towards the west.



The view up the workings with chimney in distance, and right, the chimney.



