

GALWAY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Teernakill South
Other names used for site	Tiernakill, Ternakill
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	Tír na Cille Theas (Teernakill South)
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	An Mam (Maam Village)
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	38, 39
ITM CO-ORDINATES	497020E 750630N (open cast pit)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET No. 30	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NOS. 10, 11

Outline Site Description

A disused copper mine at the north-eastern foot of Leckavrea Mountain, Maam Valley.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lakes Marble Formation and Bennabeola Quartzite Formation bedrock, part of the Neoproterozoic Dalradian Supergroup. Mineralisation occurs in marbles, hornblende schist and siliceous schist. Metallic minerals noted for the site include chalcopyrite, copper, pyrrhotite, sulphides, molybdenum, tungsten and minute amounts of nickel.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The remnants of an open cast pit (now flooded) and spoil heaps dominate the site. The site was worked as early as the 1860s, in pyritous schist, when a pyrrhotite lode was mined.

A shaft was sunk to a depth of 8 fathoms. The bed continued productive to this depth. In 1922, a sample taken from the 'Maumwee lode' at this site, showed 60% iron, 39% sulphur, and <1% nickel. Further east, near the Lough Corrib shore, outcrops of Oughterard Granite with rare flakes of molybdenite were noted in GSI records dated 1953.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

This is an important County Geological Site in terms of the industrial and mining heritage in Connemara. The site is listed under the Archaeological Survey of Ireland Record of Monuments and Places (GA038-008). The site is located within the Maamturk Mountains SAC (002008).

Management/promotion issues

Little remains of the surface workings, except for large spoil heaps and stone wall remains of mine huts. The route of the 1.5 km long tramway used to transport ore eastwards to a jetty on the shore of Lough Corrib, where it was shipped south to Galway, can still be seen in places. Access can be made to the mine site across blanket bog. The site is not deemed to be under any significant threat.



Open cast pit, looking northwest to Maamturk Mountains.



Spoil heaps at mine site. Looking southeast towards Lough Corrib.



Schist outcrops at mine site. Leckavrea Mountain on right (south).



