

MONAGHAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Tamlat
Other names used for site	Tamlaght, Drumfaldra
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	Tamlat, Drumfaldra
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Aghnamullen
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	23
ITM CO-ORDINATE	669807E 817322N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	28
	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 8/9

Outline Site Description

The site is located in farmland on low ground surrounded by Drumlins. The land is almost exclusively grassland.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The area is underlain by massive sandstones and microconglomerates of the Silurian Lough Avonagh Formation, part of the Lower Palaeozoic Longford-Down Inlier.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Tamlat Mine was apparently operated briefly in the mid-18th century, when both potters clay and lead ore were produced. It is thus probably the oldest lead mine in Monaghan. Little else is known of its history, however. An undated and largely unannotated surface plan in the Geological Survey of Ireland's mine records shows numerous shafts and excavations along a northeast-southwest-trending lode. The mine workings extend over a strike length of 350m. The lode appears to follow the line of a fault. Traces of mineralization observed in boulders in field walls include quartz-dolomite veinlets with sphalerite and galena.

The site now consists of pasture and hayfields bisected by a country road. A new house on the northern side of the road lies northwest of the line of the mine workings. South of the road, the line of the workings passes close to the southeastern corner of an older house. A sudden collapse of one of the shafts or excavations occurred here in the early 1960s and was subsequently filled in. A recent collapse in the area of a marked shaft has created a 1m-deep, 2-3m-wide pit about 10m south of the road.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The main interest in the site, apart from the geotechnical issue of potential subsidence along the line of old mine workings, is that it is probably one of the oldest mines in the county. For this reason, it is worth designation as a CGS.

Management/promotion issues

There is the possibility of erecting a signboard in the vicinity to mark the site, given its historical importance.



View southwest (left) and northeast (right) along line of lode and historic mine excavations.



Collapse on site of historic shaft (see position on map).



