

MONAGHAN - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Tassan
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	Tassan
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Annayalla
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	14
ITM CO-ORDINATES	679122E 826134N
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	28
GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	8/9

Outline Site Description

The site comprises a series of linked fields, bordered by mature trees, in an area of rolling grassland. The site overlooks a small lake and contains the remains of mine buildings and a shaft.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The area is underlain by sandstone of the Silurian Lough Avaghlon Formation, part of the Longford-Down Inlier.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Tassan was the largest and most productive of the Monaghan district lead mines. Production appears to have commenced in the late 1840s from two NNW-SSE-trending, east-dipping lodes and continued, with some interruptions, until 1865 or 1866. Total production for the period was 742 tonnes of ore, including 546 tonnes of lead and 37,478g (1322 oz) of silver. The ore consisted of argentiferous galena (PbS) and sphalerite (ZnS) in a quartz-calcite matrix.

Today, the site contains more visible features than any of the other mine sites in the district. The site is largely grassed over apart from a large solid waste heap that marks the eastern boundary of the site on the west shore of Tassan Lough. Immediately west of this is a sloping field that was once the dressing floor. A low masonry wall below an overgrown mound marks the site of the combined engine and crusher house. Of five shafts marked on the 1857 OS 6-inch map there is no trace. A water-filled depression, resembling a sink-hole, beside the spoil heap near the lake appears to mark the site of a shaft even if it does not correspond to the location of any shaft marked on the OS maps. The most substantial mine feature is the old office and workshops building. This was in use as a family home until the 1940s but of late has been used as a farm out-building and is in a state of disrepair, with collapsed walls and sagging roof.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The site presents a good mixture of extant mine features, including mine buildings and solid waste, that allow an appreciation of the extent and disposition of works on the site. The site should be considered as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The site is on private land used for pasture. The mine office/workshop building has fallen further into disrepair in the last five years. The lack of any clear trace of shafts marked on old 1:10,560 (six-inch) sheets suggests a need for caution regarding visits given the potential for future shaft collapse.



Looking west toward mine office/workshop with grassed-over dressing floor in foreground (left) and mine office/workshop (western side).



Interior of mine office/workshop showing damage to roof (left) and remains of engine and crusher house (right).



Possible site of shaft (left) and view eastwards of mine waste heaps and lake (left)



