

NORTH DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

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| NAME OF SITE | Glentogher Mine |
| Other names used for site | Glentogher [Pb, Ag, Au], Carrowmore |
| IGH THEME | IGH15 Economic Geology |
| TOWNLAND(S) | Carrowmore or Glentogher |
| NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE | Carndonagh |
| SIX INCH MAP NUMBER | 20 |
| ITM CO-ORDINATES | 647770E 937850N |
| 1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 3 | GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 1 |
| GIS Code ND012 | |

Outline Site Description

A tree and scrub-covered hillside site, with an open mine entrance, in the Glentogher valley near Minehill Bridge.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Mineralisation is stratabound and confined to a 1.2m thick section of a flaggy, finely laminated quartzite (base of the Dalradian Fahan Grits). Significant as a lead-zinc mineralization site, gold has also been reported from this locality. Two sheets of metadolerite (metamorphosed igneous rock) are interbanded with the quartzite, one of which occurs 1m below the mineralized horizon.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

It has been reported that shafts were sunk here as early as 1790, and that an underground lead-zinc mine was in operation from then to c. 1830 and also in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Early GSI 6" sheets note a silver mine at the locality. The mine was revived in 1905-1906 (proprietors M & J Johnson, Belfast), with 24% lead and 9oz silver per tonne of concentrate. In 1905, 400 tonnes of lead ore and 4000 ounces of silver were extracted. In 1906, 1400 tonnes of ore were mined, containing some gold and silver. Sphalerite, galena and pyrite occur as massive coarse-grained bands in the quartzite. Galena contains silver; and pyrite contains gold. Sulphides occur as stratabound bands, and along fractures. The mineralization is hosted in a bedded sequence of calc-psammities and quartzites (calc-silicates), distinct from the main coarse-grained feldspar-rich psammities and greywackes of the Fahan Grits. A sample of lead mineralization was reported in the Irish Independent (March 7th, 1908) as containing 13% lead, 9oz/ton silver and 3oz/ton gold. This work was undertaken by the Irish Mining and Development Company.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The mineral rights of the mine are held by a major mining company. The site is described in detail in an Environmental Protection Agency Historic Mines Report.

Management/promotion issues

This site is on private sheep grazing farmland, and any access is therefore onto private property. The site is not suitable for public promotion. However, the history of mining activities here should be included in any promotional or education material that may be produced relating to, for example, the industrial history in the region. The mineral rights are still held by a major mining company.



Western adit viewed looking north. Strata dipping east. Trees are growing at an angle (perpendicular to strata).



Sheep in western adit at Glentogher mine site.



View looking south over the scrubby knoll above the western adit (amid trees in centre).

