

## NORTH DONEGAL - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Carrowtrasna</b>
Other names used for site	Duckworth's Mine
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH15 Economic Geology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Carrowtrasna</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Kilmacrenan</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>606420E 918898N</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 6</b>	<b>GS1 BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 1</b>
<b>GIS Code ND042</b>	

### **Outline Site Description**

The location and remains of a disused talc mine.

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

The talc, or more strictly pyrophyllite, is within the Creeslough Succession of the Donegal Dalradian rocks (probably Loughros Formation/Upper Falcarragh Pelites), but different sources place the mine within different formations depending on interpretations and mapping.

### **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The mine is situated north of Lough Akibbon. A 1.5m thick band of talc, interbedded with mica schist and quartzite, is reported on the 19<sup>th</sup> century geologists' fieldsheets of the Geological Survey of Ireland. Talc was mined here by a Mr. Duckworth between 1860 and his death in 1870, with output exported to England. Between 1916 and 1918 there was further small scale working. In 1942 an exploratory adit was opened up for 60m. It may be this adit that connects to a ventilation pipe emergent in the front lawn of the adjacent cottage, beside the road. Although talc encountered was reportedly satisfactory, no further mining took place.

It is not clear now what function was served by various concrete and other structures on the site. Two open but low workings are seen. A set of concrete pillars probably raised up a railway system for removing talc from within the mine.

Historic mapping of the site, such as Ordnance Survey six inch to the mile maps, indicate a corn mill on the site, but even with the presence of a large millstone on the site, it would appear to be erroneous interpretation of mine processing structures.

### **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

The site is probably the best remaining evidence of the extraction of talc within this district.

### **Management/promotion issues**

The site is on private land and is not suitable for general promotion without the need for major interventions. It could be a site for tourism visits, with an imaginative development and lots of interpretation, but is unlikely to generate the interest or the investment required as it is of specialised interest.



Concrete pillars that once supported some process on site, possibly a small railway.



Unidentified structures adjacent to the mine.



The main mine entrance with two low tunnels.



An unidentified structure with re-emerging stream from behind crude concrete wall.



An air vent pipe in the front lawn of a cottage.



A millstone was possibly used for crushing talc, although Ordnance Survey maps also show a corn mill in the general area of the site.

