ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	**Altagowlan**
Other names used for site	Spion Kop
IGH THEME	**IGH15 Economic Geology**
TOWNLAND(S)	**Altagowlan, Greaghnaglogh**
NEAREST TOWN	**Arigna**
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	**2**
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	**191023 318642 ('T' junction in road within site)**
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	**26 1/2 inch Sheet No. 7**

Outline Site Description
This site comprises old coal workings on open hillside.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type
The coal seams are in Upper Carboniferous rocks of Westphalian age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest
Coal mining has taken place for hundreds of years in north Roscommon, centred on Arigna. A portion of this locality covers the Altagowlan-Greaghnaglogh area, where mining has most recently ceased before 1990, and many of the surface features such as buildings, rail tracks and other infrastructure have either been salvaged, scrapped or fallen into decay. However many ancillary features remain, but the key interest is in the occurrence of coal seams and underground workings.

More recent stone extraction, in part to provide roadways for the erection of a large windfarm, has added fresh geological exposures to the Altagowlan site, providing evidence of the sedimentary environments that the coal seams were formed in.

Site Importance – County Geological Site
Whilst the Arigna Mining Experience portrays so many facets of the coal mining story in the district, Altagowlan provides a complementary untouched representation of the coal mining industry, not otherwise seen in Ireland except in parts of the Castlecomer and Slieveardagh coalfields.

Management/promotion issues
Parts of the full site of interest are in County Leitrim and any future audit of geological heritage sites in that county should include assessment of the adjoining area, which is mostly outside of Roscommon. Safety concerns with underground coal workings are such that no promotion of this site should be undertaken, and only experienced qualified personnel should be used in any more detailed assessments. However, both flooding and collapses that have already occurred have provided closure of most mine adits.

An adit, with adjacent concrete structures.

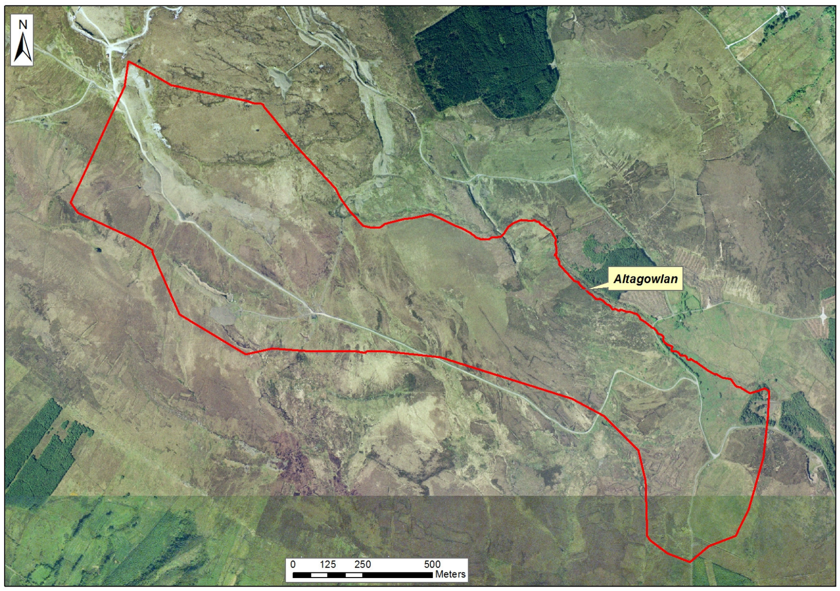
An adit visible in a surface cut.

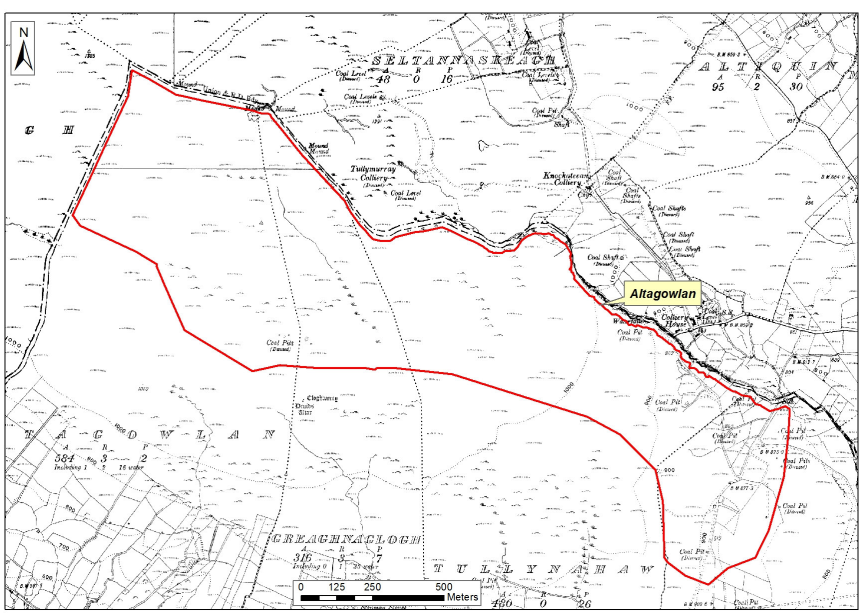
Rusting hutches for carrying coal on rails.

An abandoned adit, now flooded.

A rock quarry for supplying stone for wind turbine roads.


LOUGH ALLEN
Loch Aillionn
Altagowlan
Kilronan Mountain
Lough Meelagh
Keadew
Céideadh
Drumshanbo
Droim Seanbhó


N
Altagowlan
0 125 250 500
Meters


N
SELTANNASKEAGH
ALTIQUIN
Tullymurray Colliery
Altagowlan
CREAGHNACLOGH
TULLYNAHAW
0 125 250 500
Meters