

## TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Coalbrook (Slieve Ardagh coalfield)</b>
Other names used for site	Lisnamrock
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH15 Economic Geology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Lisnamrock</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Ballingarry</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>628340E 650320N</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 67</b>	<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 18</b>

### Outline Site Description

Walled area with extensive tree and shrub growth, surrounded by pasture.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Pennsylvanian (Upper Carboniferous) (300 – 320 Ma) sandstones, siltstones and shales with, in the youngest sequences, Westphalian coal seams.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

This 19<sup>th</sup>-century mine site is one kilometre south of Coalbrook village, immediately west of the road. It contains the remains of several mine buildings, an overgrown and plugged shaft and a small waste heap. The buildings include a substantially intact engine house and an 18 m-high quadrangular chimney, similar in shape to that at Copper but lacking the arched opening at the base. The small, occupied cottage at the roadside is apparently rebuilt or renovated from the original mine offices. The engine house was built from large flat well-hewn stones with massive cubic corner stones and is generally sound but cracks are visible in the walls, lintels are missing and there are numerous loose or missing blocks, particularly along the top. There is no lightening conductor. Loose bricks are visible on the walls of the chimney, which also lacks a lightening conductor. Nevertheless, it appears stable. The waste heap occupies the southwestern end of the site and is largely grassed over.

### Site Importance – County Geological Site

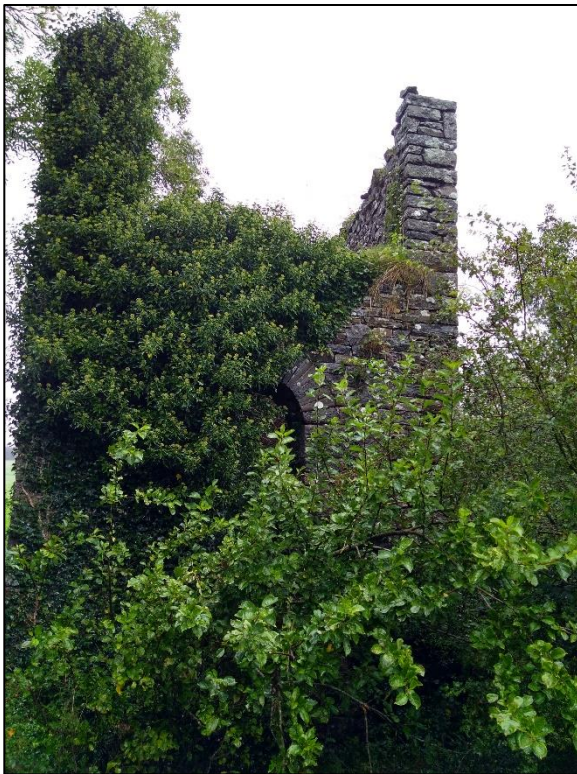
This compact site contains two well-preserved 19<sup>th</sup> century mine buildings, comprising a significant proportion of Slieve Ardagh's 19<sup>th</sup>-century mine heritage.

### Management/promotion issues

As is the case for most of the extant 19<sup>th</sup>-century mine buildings in Slieve Ardagh, the structures at Coalbrook, although under no immediate threat, require conservation to secure them in the future. The engine house is one of only two such buildings in the district and the best preserved. The site would require some clearance to make it accessible in the context of a possible Slieve Ardagh mine heritage trail. The existence of the Old School Mining Museum in Commons, run by knowledgeable and committed volunteers, should be the basis for any mine heritage or geotourism initiatives in the district.



General view of Coalbrook



Engine house, Coalbrook, showing bob wall



Engine house chimney, Coalbrook



