

TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Hollyford Mines
Other names used for site	Holyford Mines, Holyford Copper Mines
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	Reafadda
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Hollyford
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	45
ITM CO-ORDINATES	593338E 654050N (centre of site)
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER 66	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 18

Outline Site Description

Historical, now abandoned copper mine site with shafts, ruined buildings and mine chimneys.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The copper deposits worked at Hollyford were veins within Silurian greywackes. The mines were operating in between 1837 and 1862.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Hollyford copper mines operated between 1837 and 1862, first under the auspices of the Mining Company of Ireland and then under private hands. They worked vein deposits to a significant depth through a variety of shafts. The site defined as a County Geological Site is the main area in the district where copper mining took place, with other minor shafts and workings also occurring in the valley not included in this site, as very little physical evidence remains in those satellite areas. Within the site there is the former Mine Captain's house, some ancillary buildings, an open shaft, a capped shaft and chimney stump and a fairly intact chimney.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Hollyford is a good example of a 19th century copper mine in Ireland with some interesting extant remains and deserves recognition as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

The site is on private land and there is no access without permission. The open shaft is fenced off but has previously been capped twice and subsequently collapsed twice, as in any former mining area, caution must be exercised in case of any unknown or obscured dangers. The upstanding mine chimney is also a risk in that possible lightning strikes have perhaps damaged the upper portions which could collapse. Ideally, a conservation project should be initiated to make the chimney secure from weather damage and to install a lightning conductor inside the chimney if none exists.



A view of the fenced off shaft.



A view into the deep, open mine shaft.



The Mine Captain's House viewed across the fenced off open shaft.



The Mine Captain's House.



The extant engine house chimney.



The base of the other engine house chimney.

