

TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Lisheen Mine		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology		
TOWNLAND(S)	Killoran		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Moyne		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	36		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	622250E 666370N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	60	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	18

Outline Site Description

Former mine site, now the location of the National Bioeconomy Campus.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) Waulsortian limestone hosting a large deposit of zinc-lead mineralization.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The Lisheen zinc-lead deposit was discovered in the late 1980s. Mining commenced in 1999 and over 22 million tonnes of ore, at a grade of 11.6 % Zn and 2 % Pb, was produced before mining ceased in late 2015. Of the six large-scale 20th-century mines hosted by the Irish Carboniferous, the others being Tynagh, Silvermines, Gortdrum, Navan and Galmoy, three are in Co. Tipperary. Lisheen was the second largest after Navan (> 100 million tonnes).

Lisheen has been the subject of detailed research during its lifetime that has added significantly to understanding of the origins of Irish-type zinc-lead deposits, particularly in respect of structural controls on deposit formation. This in turn has contributed to development of improved exploration models that are central to the prospects of new discoveries in the future.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

Lisheen was a major Irish-type zinc-lead deposit of considerable importance both from a scientific and economic perspective.

Management/promotion issues

Of the original mine infrastructure, only the large tailings pond and mine offices remains. Wind turbines have been erected across the site, which is now host to the National Bioeconomy Campus, including the State-funded BEACON Bioeconomy Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre and Glanbia's pilot biorefinery plant. Some of the original mine signage remains and could be replaced by a signboard outlining the mine's geology and history.



Former Lisheen mine offices



Signage at entrance to mine site



Bioeconomy campus signage



View northwards over tailings pond area, with its wind turbines

