

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Ardmore Mine
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology
TOWNLAND(S)	Dysert
NEAREST TOWN	Ardmore
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 40
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	220141 77268
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	82 1/2 inch Sheet No. 22

Outline Site Description

Historical mine workings in coastal cliffs.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The rocks at Ardmore Head are the youngest Devonian rocks, and may include some which are just Carboniferous in age. They have thin mineral veins sparsely distributed within the tunnels.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

A complex of small mined tunnels penetrate the lower cliff as much as 50m inland in horizontal tunnels called adits. These are on several different levels and have side branches and possible interconnections between levels.

The limited published and archival record of the mine suggests it may have been worked in the 1600s and 1700s, and has remained unaffected by 19th century mining, unlike most mining districts.

The mineralogy is also slightly unusual compared to many smaller Irish mines with iron, copper and lead having been reported as coming from the mine, as well as silver. There are actually two separate workings, one at the head itself and one called the "Putty Hole" beneath the ruined Dysert Church.

An apparent revival attempt by Harry Ferguson and Mr Spargo is reported in local oral history, but it was either abandoned rapidly or was a scam to raise investment.

Site Importance

The Ardmore Mine is of County Geological Site importance. It is also part of Ardmore Head SAC 002123.

Management/promotion issues

Given the location off the coast path and on steep cliffs, this site is not suitable for general promotion to the public, and should not be highlighted. For those with a direct interest in geology or mining heritage they can be found and examined but they are not apparent to a casual walker. The warren of tunnels is relatively stable, but areas exist where small sections of roof could break down or the internal walls of unwanted rock may not be as securely built as they appear to be. Underground exploration of these mines is best left to experienced groups. An additional hazard encountered in the mine are numerous piles of faeces left by mink.



The mine adit entrances below the cliff path.



A view out of an adit.



The Ardmore mines are in the headland east of the hotel on the edge of the village.



Most passages are very low.



An iron mineral vein.



