

## WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	Drumslig
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	IGH 15 Economic geology
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Drumslig
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	Ardmore
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	Waterford 35
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	220542 86864
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	82                      1/2 inch Sheet No.    22

### Outline Site Description

A shallow quarry working, now heavily vegetated, in wet grassland cover.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The iron deposits are contained in Upper Devonian rocks – which are the mudstones and sandstones of the Gyleen Formation.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The locality is reported on the 19<sup>th</sup> century Geological Survey of Ireland geologists' fieldsheets as having a vein of hematite within the shale rocks, which was exploited. Hematite is a common oxide ore of iron, but occurrences in Ireland are rare. Most iron deposits that have been exploited in the past are either bog iron ore or nodular deposits of iron carbonate or phosphate in Roscommon, Leitrim and several other counties.

It is reported that some hematite veins in this district were worked by Sir Walter Raleigh in around the year 1600, Drumslig was presumably the main source. Shafts (vertical holes into the ground) are recorded on some maps but no easily visible trace of them is seen today under vegetation.

### Site Importance

The site is confirmed here as of County Geological Site importance, but it is also under consideration for NHA status within the IGH 15 Economic Geology theme, as a rare example of hematite vein mineralisation.

### Management/promotion issues

Depending on land ownership and the potential amenability of the landowner, there may be scope for minor promotion of this site. The faces are not high and shale rock is not likely to create any risk of rock fall, nor dangerous slope profiles. Vegetation (mostly brambles) would need to be cleared off any face to allow access to the rocks and any trace of hematite that may be present. However, aside from occasional visits by geological parties, the historical interest is probably of more local importance.



A panorama view of the shallow pit at Drumslig, with a probable mound of spoil in centre.



A small piece of hematite ore from Drumslig (two views).



A panorama view of the shallow pit at Drumslig from the top of the spoil mound.



A panorama view of the shallow pit at Drumslig.







