

## WICKLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Sroughmore</b>		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH15 Economic Geology</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Sroughmore</b>		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Avoca</b>		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>35</b>		
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>720658E 684158N</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>GSI Bedrock 1:100,000 Sheet No.</b>	<b>16</b>

### Outline Site Description

The Sroughmore site is a hillside pasture field on the northwestern side of the Connary mine site.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock is part of the c. 455 Ma Ordovician Avoca Volcanic Formation which comprises an interbedded sequence of strongly deformed and altered volcanic and sedimentary rocks. Massive, disseminated and vein-hosted sulphide mineralization (chalcopyrite, pyrite, galena and sphalerite) is found mainly within distinctive chloritic tuffs.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Sroughmore contains two concrete structures that are the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century aerial ropeway constructed to pump water from Connary mine. A third structure, overturned and damaged, is located inside the Connary site itself. The ropeway was apparently powered by a turbine at Sroughmore old glebe house and ran c. 1.5 km to Connary engine shaft. As a pumping mechanism however, the ropeway was a failure. Similar pylon-type structures were used in Tigroney to transmit power via cables linked to water wheels on the Avoca River but there are no remains of these. For this reason, the structures at Sroughmore are valuable evidence for various mine engineering approaches in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Site Importance – County Geological Site

The ropeway support structures are of interest because they help demonstrate the variety of mine engineering approaches adopted at Avoca.

### Management/promotion issues

The structures have stood for over a century without any apparent interference. Their size and robust construction provide some protection against damage or removal. Nevertheless, they are on private land used for pasture and vulnerable to change of land use, e.g. housing development. They can be viewed from the public road immediately downhill of the site and would merit inclusion in any Avoca mine heritage trail.



Ropeway support at Sroughmore. Second structure visible in background. View to east.



