

## WICKLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Glendasan - Foxrock</b>		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH15 Economic Geology</b>		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Brockagh</b>		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Laragh</b>		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>17, 23</b>		
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>710294E 698243N</b>		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>GSI Bedrock 1:100,000 Sheet No.</b>	<b>16</b>

### Outline Site Description

Foxrock mine site is located on the north side of the Glendasan River, on the southern slope of Brockagh Mountain, immediately north of the Wicklow Gap road.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The bedrock is Lugnaquilla Granodiorite, part of the Lugnaquilla Pluton which is one of the five plutons that comprise the late-Caledonian (405 Ma) Leinster Granite batholith. The granite is cut by slightly younger quartz veins containing lead and zinc mineralization. Immediately east of the site is the contact between the granite and schists of the Lower Palaeozoic Maulin Formation.

### Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The eastern part of the site is marked by three prominent spoil heaps, one above the other on the steep hillside, each created from waste rock tipped at the entrance to an adit driven on the Foxrock lode. Further west are spoil heaps related to adits on the Hollyrock lode. Most of the eight extant adits identified on the site have visible openings but all have collapsed to a greater or lesser degree within metres of the entrance. Two ruined mine buildings remain on the site - the main building was a crusher house: thick stone walls define the footprint of the building but much of it has been reduced to a height of one metre or less.

The area was first mined in the 19th century and some of the adits (3rd Adit, Hollyrock Deep Adit) were reopened and explored in the 1940s by Mianrai Teoranta. However, the only mining carried out on the Foxrock lode in the 20th century seems to have been from the underlying 4th Adit at St. Kevin's site, south of the Wicklow Gap road.

### Site Importance – County Geological Site

The Foxrock site is one of the most prominent mine sites in the Glendasan valley, readily accessible from the road. The stacked arrangement of the adits and waste heaps illustrate well the geometry of the near vertical lode and the approach adopted to mining it. It is a significant mine site particularly when placed in context with the Old Hero processing site on the other side of the road.

### Management/promotion issues

The spoil heap immediately above the road is potentially unstable but otherwise the site merits promotion in tandem with the Old Hero site as an excellent illustration of 19<sup>th</sup> century mining and processing in Glendasan.



3<sup>rd</sup> Adit on Foxrock lode, July 2014, showing almost complete closure of entrance by siltation. Photo on right is from 2007.



Ruins of apparent crusher house, Foxrock





