

WICKLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Glendasan - Ruplagh		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology		
TOWNLAND(S)	Brockagh, Sevenchurches or Camaderry		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Laragh		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	17		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	709213E 699473N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	56	GSI Bedrock 1:100,000 Sheet No.	16

Outline Site Description

The site is spread over an area in excess of 8 hectares in moorland largely used for sheep pasture and hill walking.

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.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Ruplagh, at the western end of the Glendasan Valley, includes some of the most remote mine sites in the Glendalough district. It incorporates the old mine sites of Old Ruplagh, North Ruplagh and West Ruplagh. The sites were developed along the Ruplagh Lode and the West Ruplagh Lode that runs northwest from it. The Ruplagh Lode is a splay or offshoot of the Luanure Lode. The Mining Company of Ireland opened the original "Old" Ruplagh mine in 1835 but by 1844 it was almost wholly unproductive. In 1845 the North Ruplagh mine was opened as an extension of Old Ruplagh. Mining appears to have continued at Ruplagh through the following three decades until a general decline that would eventually lead to a cessation of mining in the district by 1890. The underground workings at Ruplagh are extensive, reaching a depth of approximately 190m.

The Ruplagh site is most remarkable for an abundance of extant if collapsed shafts and adits. Among several ruined mine buildings the most impressive of them appears to be an engine-house ruin, now consisting of exterior and interior stone walls and a well preserved wheel pit. The highest wall is 2.5 m high. This building is now part of a farm enclosure and is used as a sheep shelter. Solid waste on the site is typical of the district but is not very extensive - in part this reflects the fact that most of the material produced at Ruplagh was processed at the Old Hero Processing site further down the valley.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

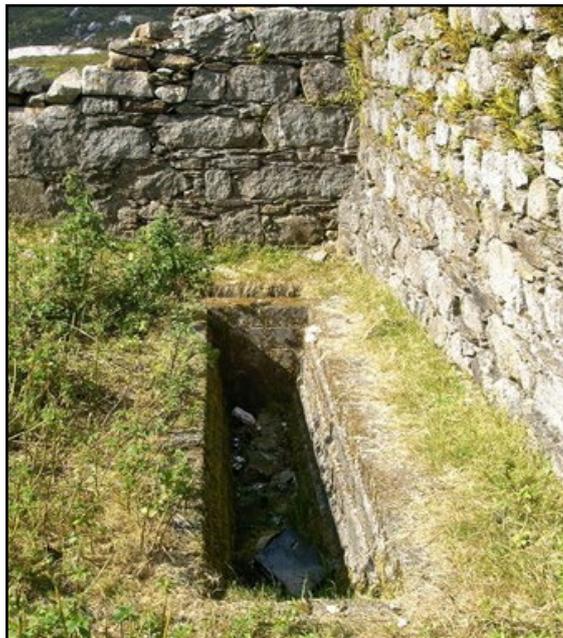
The Ruplagh site is the western-most mine site in the Glendasan valley. The remains of what appears to be an engine house make the site unique within the valley.

Management/promotion issues

The site is less well known than others in the district owing to its remoteness. Numerous unfenced shafts and adits are potential safety issues in the context of promotion of the site to the general public.



Mine building at Ruplagh.



Wheel pit in mine building at Ruplagh..



New Engine Shaft at Ruplagh.

