

WICKLOW - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Glendasan - St. Kevin's		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH15 Economic Geology		
TOWNLAND(S)	Brockagh, Sevenchurches or Camaderry		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Laragh		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	23		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	710572E 697874N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	56	GSI Bedrock 1:100,000 Sheet No.	16

Outline Site Description

St. Kevin's mine site is on the north bank of the Glendasan River, at the base of a steep section where the valley becomes much flatter and wider. The southern side of the valley is covered by coniferous plantations; the northern side has rough pasture for sheep.

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. The contact between the granite and schists of the Lower Palaeozoic Maulin Formation runs through the site immediately east of the 4th Adit.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

St. Kevin's site covers an area of about 5.5 ha that includes 1.3 ha of fine waste or tailings deposited on the northern bank of the Glendasan River. The area was first mined in the 19th century but was reopened by the Wicklow Mining Company in the 1950s. Mining was chiefly on the Foxrock lodes accessed via the 4th Adit at the northwestern end of the site. The Hayes Adit on the south bank of the river was not worked in the 20th century. The 4th Adit is the deepest adit on the Foxrock lode and the main drain for the extensive underground workings in the Foxrock-Hollyrock-Hawkrock area that underlies the valley side north of the Wicklow gap road. The only building of significance on the site is the old processing shed built in the 1950s that contains the remains of some plant equipment including a roll crusher. A 19th Century mess building and what may have been miners' houses can be seen in the area behind the small tailings cells. The St. Kevin's site includes two of the largest mine waste deposits in the Glendalough District, the main spoil heap in front of the adit and the tailings "pond". There is a memorial to a miner who died in the mine during the 1950s.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The St. Kevin's site is unusual in Glendasan because it was the focus of extensive 20th-century mining. It contains significant remains of mine buildings and processing equipment from that era, unlike other sites in the valley. The 4th adit is the main access point for workings on the Foxrock lode.

Management/promotion issues

An unsealed road runs southeast along the river bank from the mine to the monastic site and hotel at Glendalough. The walking route through the valley passes by the site and the site is popular with walkers and sightseers. It is an ideal location for a signboard illustrating aspects of mining on the Foxrock lode in the 19th and 20th centuries.



Spoil heaps at St. Kevin's mine site.



Concrete hopper dating from 1950's mining.



Area of tailings or fine waste material deposited downstream of the mine.



