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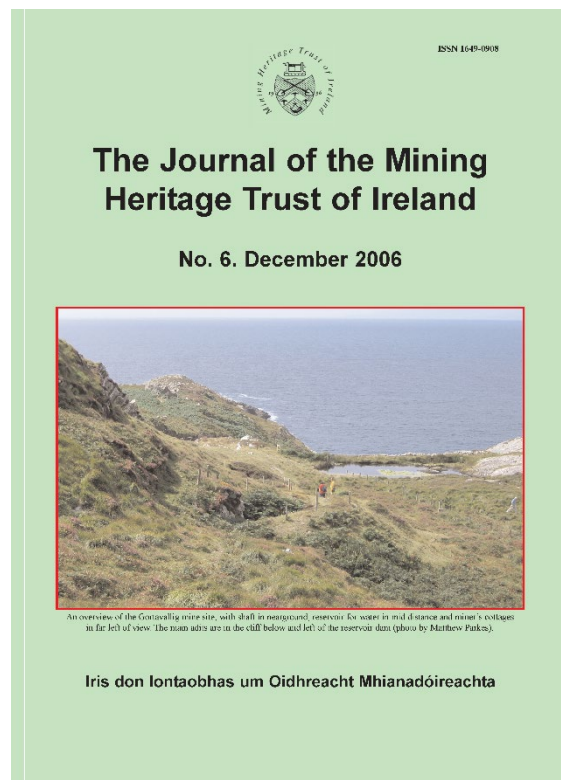
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Parkes, M. A. (2006) 'Kilcarrig Adit, County Carlow' *Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland*, 6, pp. 9-10

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KILCARRY ADIT, COUNTY CARLOW

By Matthew Parkes

Abstract: A very small adit, only 40m long in the banks of the River Slaney in County Carlow is described. It is within Ordovician schists, adjacent to contacts with Leinster Granite outcrops, but no mineralisation was seen whilst completing a brief assessment of the adit. Although of no great significance, and with no historical record in standard mining and geology sources, the adit is simply recorded here. *Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland*, 6, 2006, 9-10.

LOCATION

The adit is within the Townland of Craan, near to Kildavin, in County Carlow. It is situated on the west bank of the River Slaney a few hundred metres north of Kilcarr Bridge. Figure 1 shows the location on the Geological Survey of Ireland 19th century six inch to the mile fieldsheet Carlow 19, but the manuscript geological records do not indicate any trial adit or mine. It is situated at National Grid Reference 289300 162900, and is on the Ordnance Survey Discovery Series 1:50,000 Sheet 61.



Figure 1. The adit location on the River Slaney, on the Geological Survey of Ireland 19th century six inch to the mile fieldsheet.

GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The adit is within schists of the Maulin Formation (Ordovician) adjacent to the contact with the Tullow Pluton of the Leinster Granite. Age and type of mineralisation is not clear. There are some quartz vein remnants in the slightly wider adit mouth, but no obvious signs of other mineralisation. It is only about 10m from the nearest granite outcrop, so is probably associated with mineralisation linked with intrusion of the granite. The 19th

century fieldsheet suggests that it is within a schist and granite intermingled outcrop.

DESCRIPTION OF ADIT

The adit goes in perpendicular to the river bank for approximately 35m, where there is a flooded winze, although it looks as if it is only a metre or two deep. There is about 5m of adit beyond the winze and a 5m drive to the right at the winze. The fragmentary drill holes in the roof look very smooth and as if they have been drilled with a mechanical drill, suggesting it is a more modern adit, rather than an 18th century or early 19th century work with hand drilled effort. Figure 2 is a sketch of the adit, but the footpath illustrated is simply a slightly worn path along the vegetated river bank, presumably from use by fishermen and women. It is on private land and no access is implied. The floor is very wet in the outer part particularly. Figures 3-6 illustrate the adit both from the bank and inside.

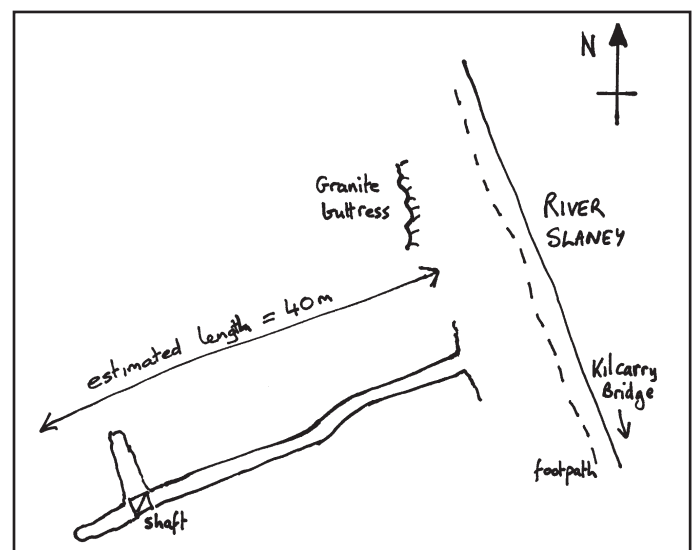


Figure 2. A sketch made on site of the adit.

DISCUSSION

It is only speculative as to what was mined, if anything, and it could have been simply an exploratory trial, rather than a productive mine. No extant records have been identified in the GSI mine records, nor any mention of this adit on 19th century geological fieldsheets, again suggesting it postdates 1890 or so. The author would be keen to hear from anyone with further information on this small, obscure working.

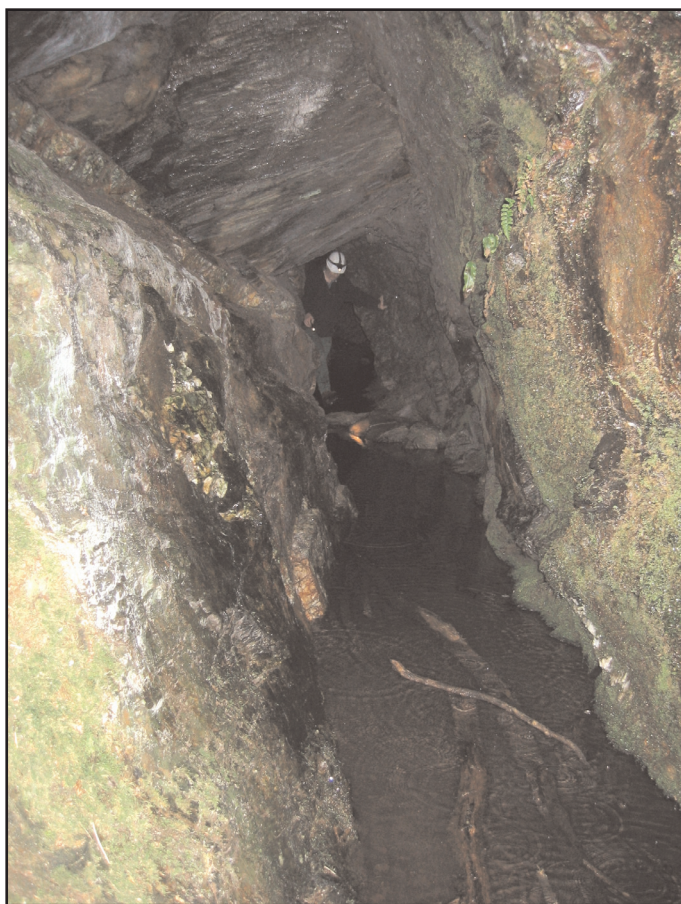


Figure 3. A view into the mine adit from the entrance. White helmet of person returning is visible top centre.



Figure 5. An internal view of the adit similar to figure 3, showing some of the quartz vein. The high roof may be a fault plane or a granite contact.



*Figure 4. Left. The author at the entrance to the adit.
Figure 6. Above. The granite buttress adjacent to the adit on the river bank.*