

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Kilbreckan
Other names used for site	Kilbreckin
TOWNLAND(S)	Kilbreckan
NEAREST TOWN	Ennis
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	34
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	139880 176078 = R399 761
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	58 1/2 inch Sheet No. 17

Outline Site Description

Abandoned Mine site and spoil

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Lead and silver-bearing mineral deposits in cherty Carboniferous limestone and dolomite.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Kilbreckan Mine is situated between Ennis and Quin. It was worked intermittently for silver and lead from 1834 until 1856. The mineralized bodies contain silver-bearing galena, pyrite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite and calamine in a calcite gangue. Other minerals include Bindheimite (a silver-bearing antimonite of lead), Bournonite (a sulphide mineral of copper, antimony and lead), Hemimorphite (a minor ore mineral of zinc), Quartz, Smithsonite (another zinc ore). In addition Kilbreckan is the type locality for the mineral 'Kilbrickenite' – now confirmed as the mineral Geocronite (a white sulphosalt mineral of lead). The main orebody, trending north-south, has a pipe-like shape and is up to 1m in width. A second, northwest trending mineralized body of similar thickness occurs also.

Site Importance

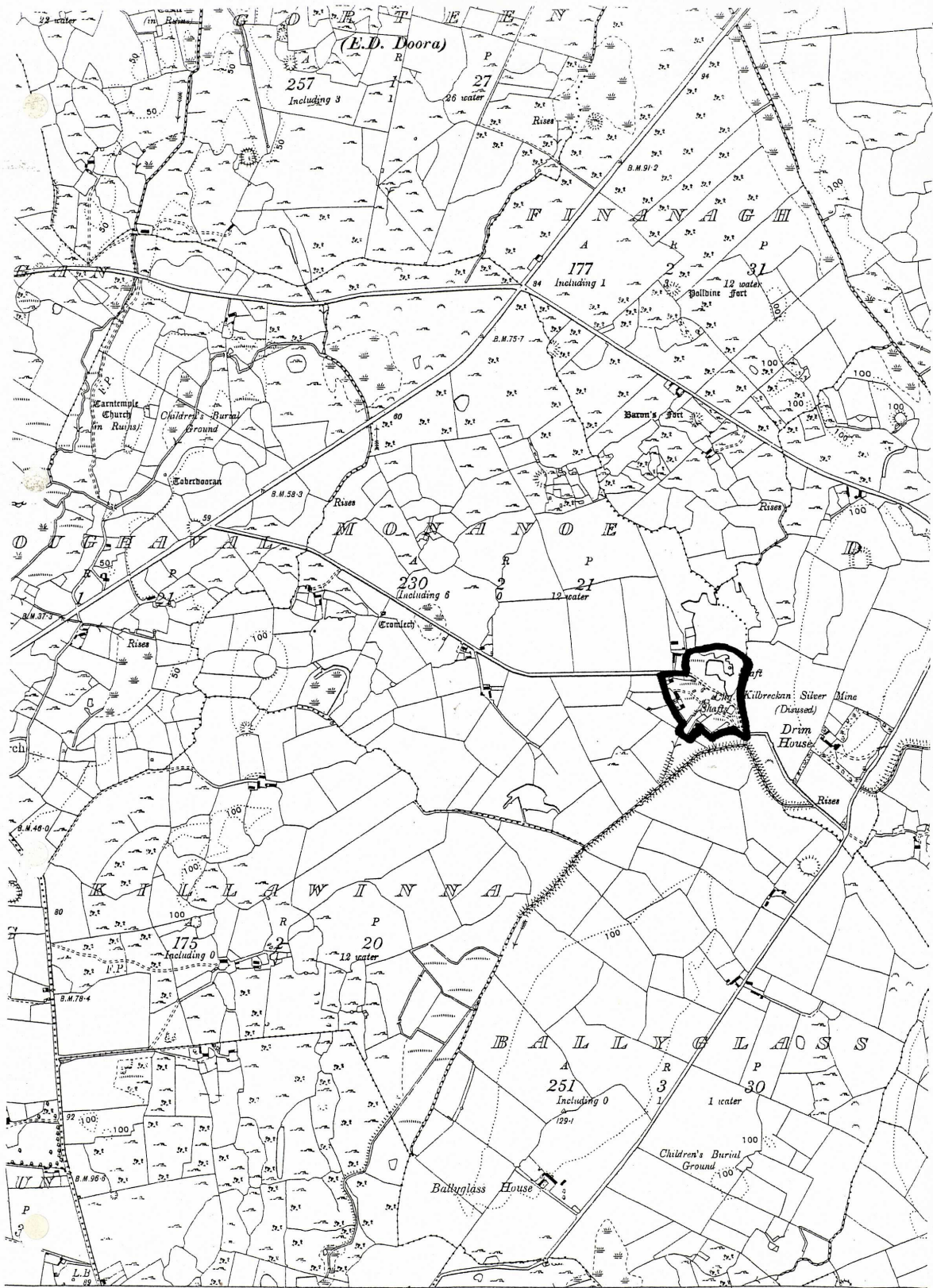
The site is of possible international importance under the IGH 6 Mineralogy theme of the GSI's IGH Programme and may be proposed for NHA designation. It also has some importance in the IGH15 Economic Geology theme.

Management/promotion issues

Much of the site is heavily vegetated, and individual shafts and other features are fenced off for safety reasons by the Exploration and Mining Division of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. All shafts appear to be flooded and at the same level as the adjacent lake. There are areas with spoil (mostly white calcite) especially on trackways (presumably where ground disturbance takes place), and other areas where vegetation will not gain a foothold due to metal toxicity. The site has considerable mining heritage interest to specialists, as well as the mineralogical importance. There are some problems with dumping on site: fridge, washing machine, garden waste etc. Due to the above issues and unknown ownership and access concerns, it is not suggested that promotion of this site to the general public is viable without resolution of some of the problems. General information on the history and importance of the site should be made available for guides.



Kilbreckan



DEERPARK T.

CLOONMORE T.

COOLSHAM-42 B.A.
ROGE T.