

LAOIS - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Modubeagh		
Other names used for site	Modubeagh Colliery		
IGH THEME	IGH16 Hydrogeology, IGH15 Economic Geology		
TOWNLAND(S)	Modubeagh		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Wolfhill		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	25		
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	659500E 683900N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	61	GSi BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	16

Outline Site Description

Modubeagh is an abandoned coal mine site, largely overgrown but containing several extant surface features including the remains of mine buildings and a collapsed shaft.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Bedrock at the site is part of the Carboniferous Pennsylvanian Coolbaun Formation but the underground mine exploited the Marine Band within the underlying Pennsylvanian Moyadd Coal Formation.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Modubeagh was noted for an unusual mine spring with a stepped structure, apparently sited at the southeastern corner of the field that bounds the site to the west. Old six-inch maps show a series of shafts running east-west along this field, crossing the field boundary at the southeastern corner. No trace remains of these shafts. A stream runs northeast along the field boundary here, its water turned red by mine drainage that enters the stream over 100 m upstream. A manhole in the centre of this field, 120 m northwest of the mine site boundary, is the only visible evidence for this apparent mine drainage system that may originally have emerged at the original site of the spring. Modubeagh mine was operated from the second half of the 19th century until 1925 by Wolfhill Collieries Ltd. The site is mainly of interest as an example of a largely 19th century coal mine site with several extant surface mine features including mine buildings, a reservoir and shafts. Buildings include the remains of housing for winding gear and a mine manager's house reduced to footprint level. The main shaft, marked by a 5m wide depression, is collapsed. It was one of the deepest in the coalfield, reaching a depth of 160 m.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

There are not many surface traces of pre-20th century mining in the Leinster Coalfield, unlike the situation in the Slieve Ardagh coalfield to the southwest. Indeed, even many of the 20th century mines have little surface expression, the land having been reclaimed for farming and other uses. In this context, the Modubeagh site has considerable significance even if the extant surface features are largely overgrown.

Management/promotion issues

The site, in its current overgrown state, is of interest mainly to students of mining history. The main shaft, although collapsed at the collar, is unfenced and constitutes a safety risk. The site is therefore not suitable for promotion to the general public.



Remains of washing/screening plant at Modubeagh Mine.



Modubeagh Mine Reservoir.



Surface expression of Modubeagh Mine main shaft, c. 160 m deep.

