

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE

Ballykinnacorra North

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Ballykinnacorra North

NEAREST TOWN

Corofin

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

17

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

128650 188480 = R2865 8848

128740 188060 = R2874 8806

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

57 1/2 inch Sheet No. 14

Outline Site Description

Mushroom rocks – isolated wave worn stones in grazing fields

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

Although the limestone is of Carboniferous age, the probable development of the undercut lips and mushroom shapes is a postglacial development.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The stone in question is an example of a phenomenon classed as mushroom stones. These are thought to have formed when lakes existed for periods long enough for water to dissolve the limestone below the lake level. Emergent limestone above the lake level was not dissolved. In some stones such as at Ballykinnacorra North, this has created an scalloped lower surface with smooth surfaces, whilst in more extreme cases a mushroom shape develops with a cap on a pedestal. These lakes are thought to have probably existed from around the end of the Ice Age when water levels were much higher. In some cases the present day lakes probably had a wider extent such as in the River Fergus floodplain, but in others the lake has entirely disappeared. In some cases an alternative explanation that the stem of the mushroom was buried by bog has been made, but this seems unlikely for Ballykinnacorra North.

Site Importance

The site is of County Geological Site importance under the IGH 1 Karst theme of the GSI's IGH Programme. It is one of only about 63 mushroom stones known in the country as a whole. Fieldwork for this report has identified a further wave worn stone at R2874 8806, in the field to the south, near the petrol station. The site should include both obvious stones.

Management/promotion issues

The subtlety of the wave worn features means that the stone is vulnerable to field clearance, agricultural 'improvement' or road widening as well as the use of the field as a building site for a new domestic dwelling, although the main stone is large enough to command attention.



Far Left
Ballykinnacorra 1

Left
Ballykinnacorra 2

CORROFIN

KILLEEN T9
(E. D. Corrofin)

KILLEEN T^D
(E. D. Corrofine)