

# CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

**NAME OF SITE**

Other names used for site

**TOWNLAND(S)****NEAREST TOWN****SIX INCH MAP NUMBER****NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE****1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER**

Coad

Coad

Corofin

17

127266 191405 = R2727 9141

51      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 at least eight stones in question are 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 Coad, this has created a marked smooth surface below a lip, 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 Coad.

**Site Importance**

The site is of County Geological Site importance under the IGH 1 Karst theme of the GSI's IGH Programme. The stones at Coad comprise a large share of only about 63 mushroom stones known in the country as a whole. The adjacent stone in Killinaboy Townland on the other side of the adjacent road should be included in one site.

**Management/promotion issues**

The subtlety of the wave worn features means that the stones are 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 situation in the Fergus floodplain makes this unlikely.



Coad