

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE**Crossard**

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Crossard

NEAREST TOWN

Corofin

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

17

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

126880 190750 = R2688 9075

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER51 **1/2 inch Sheet No.** 14**Outline Site Description**

Mushroom rocks – isolated wave worn stone 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 Crossard, this has created a marked bulbous mushroom shape develops with a cap on a pedestal, although other may only have lips on surfaces. 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, such as Inchiquin, probably had a wider extent 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 Crossard.

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.

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.



[illegible]