CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	**Elmvale**
Other names used for site	
TOWNLAND(S)	Elmvale
NEAREST TOWN	Corofin
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	17
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	Elmvale 1: 125903 191700 = R2590 9170
	Elmvale 2: 125870 191600 = R2587 9160
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	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 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 this has created a marked mushroom shape with a cap on a pedestal, although others 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 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.

Site Importance
The site is of County Geological Site importance under the IGH 1 Karst theme of the GSI's IGH Programme. It has two of only about 63 mushroom stones known in the country.

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 the latter unlikely.

Elmvale


St. Joseph's
R.C. Church
Killinaboy
Coad Lodge
Poplar Br.
Poplar Ho.
Cross Br.
Croshard Cottage
BUNNANAGAT SOUTH
ROUGHA
ELMVAL
CRO
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