

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Killinaboy
Other names used for site	
TOWNLAND(S)	Killinaboy
NEAREST TOWN	Corofin
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	17
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	127110 191488 = R2711 9149
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 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 Killinaboy, 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 Killinaboy.

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. This stone is named differently as it is in a different Townland to those in Coad on the other side of the adjacent road. The site should include all the 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 situation in the Fergus floodplain makes the latter unlikely. It would seem that the field was largely bulldozed in the recent past, from aerial photo images and the large boulder pile in the western end of the field. It appears that this one stone fortuitously escaped, but there may originally have been many more present.



