

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE

Sheshymore

Other names used for site

TOWNLAND(S)

Sheshymore

NEAREST TOWN

Kilfenora

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

9

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

124150 195900 = R24150 95900

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER

51 **1/2 inch Sheet No.** 14

Outline Site Description

Extensive area of undisturbed limestone pavement containing large **clint** blocks, deep **grikes** and a variety of **karren** forms.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The pavement is developed on a single bed of upper Brigantian limestone.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Sheshymore hosts an extensive area of undisturbed limestone pavement with well-developed karren forms. Tabular blocks of limestone or clints in this area are defined by east-west and north-south orientated **joints**. The clints are elongated in an east-west direction (1.2-1.5m spacing between east-west joints and 2-3m spacing between north-south joints). Curved joints are particularly evident in the northeastern part of the pavement and northeast-southwest orientated crosscutting joints are common in the southwestern area producing triangular clint blocks. The central and eastern areas of pavement are smooth and predominantly karren-free suggesting previous burial beneath a protective layer of **calcareous** glacial till. Grikes are deepest in this area (1.5-2.5m). Several of the larger north-south trending joints have been enlarged to form vegetated trenches, 1.5m wide, rich in the shrub *corylus*. Karren forms in this area include solution pans (or kamenitza; shallow pools in the limestone), rundkarren (rounded grooves) and meanderkarren. Physical and chemical weathering has resulted in the decay of the peripheral limestone pavement to **clitter** and vegetated rocky grassland.

Site Importance

The site is of International importance and is proposed for NHA designation under the IGH 1 Karst theme of the GSI's IGH Programme.

Management/promotion issues

There has been some disturbance of loose clint slabs in the north of the area, re-arrangement, building of miniature cairns and wedging into grikes. The area of best pavement is 11.3ha. A more extensive area within enclosing walls (also shown on 6" map) is 33ha but includes some degraded pavement and scrub, especially in the south and west of the site.



Wide grikes with well developed fluting and horizontal solutional fretting and irregular clint blocks.

Sheshymore

