

CLARE - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE**Sraheen**

Other names used for site

The Banshee Stone

TOWNLAND(S)

Sraheen

NEAREST TOWN

Tulla

SIX INCH MAP NUMBER

34

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE

142860 179640 = R 4286 7964

1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER58 **1/2 inch Sheet No. 17****Outline Site Description**

Mushroom rock – isolated wave worn stone in grazing field

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 Sraheen, this has created an etched lower surface with a major overhang, 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 had a wider extent, but in others the lake has entirely disappeared, as at Sraheen. In some cases an alternative explanation that the stem of the mushroom was buried by bog has been made, but this seems unlikely for Sraheen.

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.



Sraheen

