

ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Carrowmurragh Mushroom rocks
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst, IGH14 Fluvial and Lacustrine Geomorphology
TOWNLAND(S)	Carrowmurragh
NEAREST TOWN	Athlone
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	49
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	199758 248115
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	47 1/2 inch Sheet No. 12

Outline Site Description

The site comprises four different limestone rocks in close proximity, which exhibit a mushroom shape or which show dissolution with marked overhanging lips or shelves.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

These rocks are of Carboniferous limestone, but the solution is believed to be post-glacial (Holocene) from short lived submergence in temporary lakes or higher-level river floodplains than presently exist.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Throughout Ireland only around 70 of these mushroom stones are known, in several discrete areas. These stones and the associated cluster at Moyvannan in Cornaseer Townland a kilometre south are indicative of a much higher former level of Lough Ree. This prolonged exposure of the undercut portions of the stone probably took place in the period immediately after glaciation ended when there was both extensive meltwater and many temporary barriers of glacial sediment or remnant ice which dammed back water until new overflow channels and breaches were formed.

Site Importance – County Geological Site; may be recommended for Geological NHA

These are fine examples of mushroom stones and are of national importance since there are so few on a countrywide basis.

Management/promotion issues

The rocks are inaccessible, very difficult to find and any kind of promotion of them as visitor sites would require some investment as well as landowner agreement and co-operation. It would be desirable to bring them into the public domain and make them accessible, with interpretation. They are also vulnerable to obscurity and damage from the growth of unwanted vegetation like ivy, gorse and brambles. If linked with Moyvannan stones they could make an excellent trail. They are currently within Lough Ree SAC and pNHA (Site Number 000440), and SPA (004064).



Carrowmurragh 1 mushroom stone.



Carrowmurragh 1 mushroom stone viewed from a different angle showing the pedestal and undercut.

