

TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	Annagh Mushroom Rock		
Other names used for site			
IGH THEME	IGH1 Karst		
TOWNLAND(S)	Annagh		
NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE	Rathcabbin		
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	2		
ITM CO-ORDINATES	601905E 708487N		
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	53	GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.	15

Outline Site Description

An isolated, single mushroom rock sits in a callow grassland field, beside the Little Brosna River.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The mushroom rock is composed of Carboniferous limestone and shows solutional weathering that has largely occurred since the last Ice Age, during the Holocene epoch.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Mushroom rocks are a relatively rare phenomenon across the country and this example is a previously undocumented one. The undercut sections of the limestone bedrock exposures are generally thought to have been dissolved by waters in former temporary lakes, probably following soon after the melting of glacial ice, at the end of the Ice Age, around 10,000 years ago. Some other examples are thought to have been dissolved below bog or soils, which have subsequently shrunk back, perhaps after natural or man-made drainage. The undercutting on the Annagh Mushroom Rock is relatively modest with a sloping base. The position is at the margin of a very slight rise in ground adjacent to the wide Little Brosna River callows – flat low lying fields which flood in winter, possibly reflecting the original lake geography.

Site Importance – County Geological Site

The rarity of mushroom rocks and the quality of this isolated example means it deserves recognition as a County Geological Site.

Management/promotion issues

It is situated on private farmland and there is no access without permission.



Annagh Mushroom Rock, with John Feehan for scale.



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