

## TIPPERARY - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	Ballyduff-Clonmona Mushroom Rocks		
Other names used for site			
<b>IGH THEME</b>	IGH1 Karst		
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	Clonmona, Ballyduff		
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	Rathcabbin		
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	5		
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	601363E 705450N (centre of feature between two segments)		
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	53	<b>GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO.</b>	15

### Outline Site Description

There are a cluster of mushroom rocks in Clonmona Townland, and one in Ballyduff Townland, very close to the main cluster.

### Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The mushroom rocks are composed of Carboniferous limestone and they show varied degrees of 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 these examples are previously undocumented ones. 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.

In Clonmona and Ballyduff there are a variety of forms which may be related to their development including deeply dissolved bases and some that are simply pointed sloping peaks. These rocks have contributed to new analysis and ideas on the formation of mushroom rocks which will be incorporated into a new comprehensive study by John Feehan and Louise Dunne. Their positions on the ground can be closely related to the margins of a low lying basin in the subtle topography.

### Site Importance – County Geological Site

Although not all as spectacular, nor as mushroom shaped as many others, the collective cluster of rocks in this townland is important.

### Management/promotion issues

The rocks are all on private farmland and there is no access without landowner permission.



Ballyduff Mushroom Rock.



The largest of the Clonmona cluster.



John Feehan beside a Clonmona Rock.



John Feehan beside a Clonmona Rock.



The isolated northerly stone in the Clonmona cluster with John Feehan (left) and without him (right).





