

WATERFORD - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

NAME OF SITE	St Declan's Stone
Other names used for site	
IGH THEME	IGH7 Quaternary
TOWNLAND(S)	Duffcarrick
NEAREST TOWN	Ardmore
SIX INCH MAP NUMBER	Waterford 40
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE	219323 77537
1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER	75 1/2 inch Sheet No. 22

Outline Site Description

St Declan's Stone is a glacial erratic boulder, which rests on outcropping bedrock beside Ardmore Pier.

Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The erratic was dropped on to the bedrock outcrop by glacier ice, having been transported from its source. The erratic is of Devonian-age conglomerate rock and rests on bedded sandstone of much younger Lower Carboniferous (Dinantian) age.

Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

Erratic boulders are rare in the valleys of Waterford and east Cork. Though the subsoils on the Lower Carboniferous rocks commonly have erratic sandstone and conglomerate lithologies, these materials usually comprise tills with admixtures of sands, silts, clays, gravels and cobbles, with boulder sized clasts being rare. It is also unusual to see any boulders at the ground surface.

The boulder is 2m x 1m across and is perched on top of two beds of limestone with a marked void beneath. A rock pool has formed beneath the void and the boulder.

Site Importance

This is a relatively unique erratic block and erratics of this size are unusual in this part of Waterford. The site is of County Geological Site status.

Management/promotion issues

Though the stone is signposted in the town of Ardmore itself, it is difficult to know exactly where the stone is. A promotional sign at the entrance to the beach area might prove useful, with a simple explanation of what an erratic is, at least in parallel to any religious significance that the stone has been imbued with. Secular explanation is as valid as spiritual in this case.



St. Declan's Stone – a large glacial erratic, seen from the roadside.



The conglomeratic nature of the rock can be seen close-up to the stone.



The existing direction sign to the stone.



