

# WESTMEATH - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Tullin Mushroom Rock</b>
Other names used for site	
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH1 Karst</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Tullin</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE</b>	<b>Athlone</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>ITM CO-ORDINATES</b>	<b>605140E 744365N (centre of small wood hosting feature)</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>47 GSI BEDROCK 1:100,000 SHEET NO. 12</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

An isolated, single, undercut limestone mushroom rock, situated in woodland.

## **Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type**

This mushroom rock is formed in Carboniferous limestone bedrock, but the undercut features and overhanging lips were formed in Holocene, or post-glacial times *i.e.* in the last 10,000 years.

## **Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest**

The mushroom rock phenomenon is relatively rare across the country, but best known in Offaly, Clare and Roscommon. Westmeath also has some other examples and this is a single stone with clear undercutting approaching the classic mushroom shape.

The undercut sections of the limestone bedrock exposures are 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 examples are thought to have been dissolved below bog or soils, which have subsequently shrunk back, perhaps after natural or man-made drainage.

## **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

As one of only a few mushroom rocks in County Westmeath, this is important to preserve, and recognition as a County Geological Site may help with this.

## **Management/promotion issues**

The landowners are fully aware of the geological heritage value and the rock is not under any known threat, but it is not suitable for any promotion, as the rock is on private woodland, and on the active floodplain of Lough Ree.



General view of Tullin Mushroom Rock, with an A4 page for scale.



Opposite view of the Tullin Mushroom Rock



