



Report from the Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee – 2019

The Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee (IUGGC) operates on an all-Ireland basis to allow for networking and exchange of knowledge from all those involved and interested in UNESCO Global Geoparks across the island. Membership of the IUGGC consists of representatives from both the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland (UK).

Chair: Kirstin Lemon (klem@bgs.ac.uk)

Geological Survey of Northern Ireland / British Geological Survey
Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark

Members:

Siobhan Power (Vice-Chair) – Geological Survey Ireland
Grainne O'Connor – Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark
Martina O'Neill – Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark
Carol Gleeson – Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark
Eamon Doyle – Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark
Robbie Galvin – Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
Mike Sweeney – Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
John Galloway – Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark

Active applications:

- No current active applications

Interested territories:

- Antrim (Northern Ireland)
- Joyce Country & Western Lakes (Republic of Ireland)

Committee Activities

Meetings

- The Irish UNESCO Global Geoparks Committee organises an annual Irish Geoparks Forum to allow for networking and engagement amongst all those interested in UNESCO Global Geoparks on the island of Ireland. In 2019, there were two Irish Geoparks Fora due to a change of timing for the annual event. These were as follows:
 - February 2019 – hosted by Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark Project
 - November 2019 – hosted by Antrim Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark

Promotion

- Participation in the GeoFair at the EGN CC Meeting in Swabian Alps, Germany - Promotional banner and flyer produced for the UK Committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks. Presentation of local food from all of the UK UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Mentoring

- Committee members are working closely with the Joyce Country and Western Lakes geopark project in Co. Mayo and Co. Galway.
- Committee members have also worked closely with the Mourne Gullion Strangford Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark. As this is an application in Northern Ireland it has been submitted through the UK National Commission for UNESCO so has not been included here as an active application.