

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Fforest Fawr UNESCO GLOBAL Geopark (European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription: 2005

Year of the last revalidation: 2021

Representative photo:



The new Geopark Learning Lab at Craig-y-nos Country Park

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 7 including 2 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: approximately 3 million (in a normal year – no figures for 2021)

Number of Geopark events: 17 (almost all online talks, including as per 2020, “e-tours of the Cribarth” and the “River Usk – from source to Sea”)

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: The Geopark’s educational programmes could not be delivered due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Number of Geopark press release: 2

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

- Establishment of Geopark Learning Lab at Craig-y-nos Country Park, complementing the Geopark Discovery Point.
- Collaboration between staff members from Cardiff University’s School of Earth and Ocean Sciences and Fforest Fawr UGGp facilitated training Year 2 and Year 3 students in field mapping on the Cribarth, one of the Geopark’s upland geosites.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Member of the European Geoparks Advisory Committee.
- Publication Editor European Geoparks Magazine, Issue 18.
- Edited European Geoparks Newsletter Issues 18, 19 and 20 and contributed an article in Issue 19.
- Participation in and preparation of summaries for the third, fourth and fifth European Geoparks Digital Forum Meetings, 21 January, 14 April and from 1st to 2nd September.
- Participation in the second UNESCO Global Geoparks Digital Forum from 23rd to 24th February.
- Participation in the DIGITAL 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks from 12th to 16th December.

Management and Financial Status

- Fforest Fawr Geopark is managed by members of its partnership organizations including: the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority; the British Geological Survey; Natural Resources Wales; Dyfed Archaeological Trust; the Brecon Beacons Park Society; Cardiff and Swansea universities and local businesses and tourism providers.
- The Geopark continues to be funded by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

Geoconservation

- The Geopark is actively involved with SEWRIGS (South East Wales Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites) which aims to protect and interpret the 47 geosites which have been designated in the Geopark.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- The 'Geotours' smartphone app which features self-guided geotrails at 4 diverse sites was launched and forms the basis of a new approach to Geotourism in the Fforest Fawr UGGp.
- Fforest Fawr Geopark continues to support tourism businesses in and around the Geopark with geosite orientation, Ambassador training and advice and dissemination of trail literature.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- No new programmes could be developed in 2021 due to the constraints imposed by the Covid pandemic on activities in Wales.

Strategic partnership

- British Geological Survey, Cardiff University, Swansea University, University of South Wales, Natural Resources Wales, Brecon Beacons Park Society

Promotional activities

- The development of Instagram and Facebook pages (@fforestfawrgeopark) continued, building on the progress made in 2020.

4. CONTACTS

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