

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: North West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark, United Kingdom (Scotland), European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2004 / 2019

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



Laura Hamlet (Geopark Manager and Wester Ross Biosphere Director) and Natasha Hutchison (Geopark Director and Wester Ross Biosphere Manager) with the Wanderlust award received for the UNESCO National trail in the Scottish Parliament

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 5 staffs including 2 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: If total number of the visitors to the geopark is difficult to estimate, show the number of the visitors to the major geosite(s), museum or visitor center.

Visitors to Smoo Cave Geosite in 2022: 99891

Visitors to Knockan Crag Geosite in 2022: 17761

Estimate total visitor numbers in 2022: c.400,000

Number of Geopark events:

56 – see <https://www.nwhgeopark.com/events/month/2022-01/>

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:

51

Number of Geopark press release:

2

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- Launch of UNESCO National Trail
- Recruited Education and Engagement Officer
- New Ranger Hut and Geopark Exhibition
- New Geopark Ambassador programme

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Submitted articles to the EGN Newsletter and Magazine
- Submitted material to shared UGG book
- Shared photographs with Lanzarote UGG
- Submitted photos for International Geodiversity Day
- Organised events for European Geoparks week
- Regular resharing and tagging of GGN on social media
- Contribution to presentation of UNESCO Global Geoparks in new visitor center of Karawanken-Karavanke UGG

Management and Financial Status

- Secured budget for three year programme

Geoconservation

- Developed a plan for Smoo Cave Geosite
- Improvements to Knockan Crag

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Launch of Visitor Management Plan, Tourism Infrastructure Plan and Local Access Plan for Durness.

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

- Education and Enrichment programme launch – includes climate action

Strategic partnership

- Regional Land Use Partnership Pilot

Promotional activities

- Adopted new UNESCO Bi Lingual Logo
- New staff uniforms

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Laura Hamlet (manager@nwhgeopark.com)

Geologist: Pete Harrison (Geologist@nwhgeopark.com)