

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, Ireland, European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2011 / 2019



Furnace Festival at Caherconnell Fort August 2022

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 3 staff, including 1 geoscientist.

Number of visitors: 1.2 million

Number of Geopark events:

EGN Week.

National Heritage Week (Heritage Council).

International Geodiversity Day (GGN).

Furnace Festival (with Irish Iron Heritage Foundation and Caherconnell Fort).

Evening Course for adult education returned after Covid break.

Presentation for Burrenbeo Trust on Fossil plants in the Burren.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 4

Lisdoonvarna, Ballyvaughan, Boston, Mullagh.

Number of Geopark press release: 1. 160 Facebook posts reached 75,000 people.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- The Furnace Festival was held at Caherconnell Fort for the first time.
- Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark Code of Practice awards.
- Irish Geoparks Forum
- Participated in Burren Food Fayre at Burren Winterage Festival.
- Contributed to the first International Geodiversity Day.
- Attended the 16th European Geopark conference Network.
- 'The Island' TV documentary including Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark launched.
- GEOfood promoted at Milwaukee Irish Festival (USA).
- Launched GEOfood at the Burren Slow Food Festival.
- Burren named as Best Place to Holiday in Ireland 2022 by Irish Times (Newspaper) readers.
- Interview by Geopark geologist on local radio about new trace fossil discovery.
- Academic publication in International journal: Doyle, E.D. 2022. Stone, Water and Ice: The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, County Clare, Ireland. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Our representatives attend the required annual meetings.
- We are collaborating with Northwest Highlands UGGp on a proposed cultural (placenames) project.
- Publication of article in EGN Magazine.

Management and Financial Status

- We are managed by Clare County Council (Local Authority) and our financial status is good.

Geoconservation

- We monitor our Geosites and address any issues as required.
- We are partners with Leave No Trace (visitor behaviour education in the country)
- We have a 'No Fossil Collecting' policy.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- We provide training for members of the Burren Ecotourism Network.
- We are partners in the European Atlantic Geotourism project.

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

- New content added to our website on Geohazards and biodiversity.
- Continue writing new monthly educational articles for the local newspaper 'The Clare Champion'.
- New online training modules developed for the Burren Ecotourism Network.

Strategic partnership

- We are partners with Burren Ecotourism Network, Geological Survey Ireland, University of

Galway.

Promotional activities

- We are active on Social Media, including 160 posts on Facebook, with a reach of 75,000 in 2022.
- We produce a free Geopark map which is available to all businesses in the Geopark.
- We produce the book 'Stone, Water and Ice' which is distributed locally.
- We support the locally produced book 'The Burren Explorer'.

4. CONTACTS

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