

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

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

Year of inscription: 2005

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: [2021](#)



The Geopark on Tour: members of the Geopark's Management Group engage with outdoor leaders learning about the geology, ecology, and history within and at the margins of the Geopark.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

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

Number of visitors: approximately 3 million in 2019

Number of Geopark events:

Thirty- four events were attended by 537 participants. Five training events, and two tours involved the management body and cooperative organizations including tourism businesses. Eleven walks involved a member of the management with participants from various communities. Two educational activities involved a member of the management and participants from Bath Spa University and the Black Mountains College. Twelve talks included celebrations of the history of the Swansea Canal, and engaging with clubs within various communities. The Geopark also engaged with the Hirwaen Graziers and the Ystradfellte Show on 9 September 2023.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:

Fifty-one school groups (1522 children) came to our Visitor Centres. Thirty-eight of these were primary school children the remaining 13 groups made up of secondary school age and mixed age groups. Activities included courses on navigation, river studies, den building, geocaching, guided walks, and geography fieldwork days.

Number of Geopark press release: One press release with more emphasis on social media.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

Engaging with local authorities and communities beyond the FFG's existing boundary with the view to extending the Geopark, and activities associated with the Swansea Valley Canal.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Member of the European Geoparks Advisory Committee (AC).
- Publication Editor - European Geoparks Magazine, Issue 20.
- Publications Editor - GGN Publications Geoparks Going Green Issue 1.
- Edited European Geoparks Newsletter Issues 23 and 24.
- Participation in the 47th Coordination Committee Meeting, Hateg Country UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania 27th – 30th March 2023.
- Participation in the 48th Digital Coordination Committee Meeting, 8 - 9 November 2023.
- Participation in Digital Advisory Committee Meetings January – December 2023.

Management and Financial Status

- Fforest Fawr Geopark is managed by members of its partnership organizations including: the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA); 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 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.
- Online Ambassador training and the increasing number of FFG Ambassadors.

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

Development of the educational facilities in the Craig y Nos Country Park and extending activities With the BBNPA's education group.

Strategic partnership

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

Promotional activities

- Restoration of the Geoparks Festival. Fforest Fawr Geopark's contribution to European Geoparks Week activities which was curtailed due to covid in 2020 and 2021.
- The development of Instagram and Facebook pages (@fforestfawrgeopark) continued, building on the progress made in 2021.

4. CONTACTS

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