



ACTION B2 SITES AND MONUMENTS PROGRESS REPORT

13-3-2017

KEY OBJECTIVE OF ACTION B2

To develop transferrable toolkits for the monitoring and visitor management of sites and monuments

Through the development of

- A collaborative approach
 - Baseline data for seven selected demonstration sites
 - A work programme and testing of interventions at demonstration sites
 - Monitoring and managing change
 - Reporting
 - Policy implications
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ACTION B2 PROGRESS (November 2016 – March 2017)

Transferable Toolkits

1. Monitoring App

Agreed process for development: On 24 October 2016 a meeting was held between representatives of MAC Ltd. Limerick, the IT section Clare County Council and the GeoparkLIFE team to discuss the future development of the monitoring app which up to that date included test outline visitors observation and monuments condition sections. MAC presented a costed outline proposal with a proposed work schedule from October to end of January 2017. The proposal includes developing trails section, building of working screens, back end looks and full system requirements (but not including the administration of back-end support). The end product will enable the creating, adding, importing of trails/sites and user groups' creation. It was agreed that the GeoparkLIFE team will undertake full systems testing providing feedback to MAC on a continuous basis throughout the development period. MAC will then modify/update fixes as required. GeoparkLIFE will be responsible for style sheet solutions and organisation of graphic design elements of same.

To initiate the project, it was agreed that

- MAC would develop a test trails section and that testing would commence on all sections by the GeoparkLIFE team.
- Two android tablets would be procured through the IT section of Clare County Council to undertake the testing.
- Following testing, feedback would be given to MAC for modification/additions/fixes.
- A second round of testing would then be undertaken and on supply of full specification documents to the IT section of CCC and agreement of same development work could commence on the back end and full system requirements.

- Upon satisfactory completion of the monitoring app, the system will be handed over to CCC for hosting and management.
- Decisions will be required on user management, data access and control.

Progress to date:

- The Android tablets were received from the IT section of CCC on January 10th.
- Following instruction by MAC, testing was undertaken by Eoin Hogan (Rural Recreation Officer), Emma Glanville (NPWS), Ken Curley (OPW) and Zena Hocht (GeoparkLIFE) during February 2017.
- Comments/ fixes/additions required were compiled and sent to MAC on 6-3-17.

2. Heritage Map Viewer

Datasets, visuals, metadata and linkages have been prepared for The Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark Map Viewer Section of the Heritage Council Map Viewer and have been uploaded onto the system. The test version is now accessible at <https://w12-iis.compass.ie/heritagelandingpage/WebApps/Burren/index.html> Feed back is currently being sought with regard to content and ease of use of the system from the GeoparkLIFE partners.

Once feedback has been received (deadline April 19, 2017), the system will be updated/modified as required. Upon satisfactory completion of the system by all partners, the Geopark Viewer will go live on the Heritage Map Viewer system. The expected completion date is May 30, 2017.

Collaborative Approach

The following GeoparkLIFE surveys and reports were supplied for baseline data for the NPWS 'Visitor and Traffic Management Plan for the Burren National Park' (which is currently being prepared):

- Millward Brown 2014 '*Burren & Cliffs of Moher GeoparkLIFE Programme Visitor Survey*'
- CAAS Ltd '*Results of Pilot Observation Studies of Environmental impacts at the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark*' October 2014.
- Saunders J. '*Buses in the Burren 2014 – A Study of the Impacts and Issues*' January 2015
- People Counters data for BNP walking trails
- Automated Traffic Survey and Parking Survey at BNP August 2016 (joint initiative of GeoparkLIFE and NPWS)

GeoparkLIFE have also participated in the consultation process for the draft NPWS 'Visitor and Traffic Management Plan for the Burren National Park'.

The '*Fanore Coast and Dune Management Report 2016*' has been circulated to the Environment section and relevant Engineering sections within Clare County Council. GeoparkLIFE are currently working with these departments to implement improvement works at the sand dunes and beach and to streamline site signage in line with the recommendations of the report.

A request was received from local community members in Fanore for the construction of a more durable wall at Murroghkilly parking lay-by. The community through the Jobs Initiative Scheme have been repairing this wall for a number of years. Due to the increased volume of tourists stopping at the lay-by in recent years, the community reported that there is constant pressure on the wall resulting in collapse and movement of stone. Following a review of the situation, GeoparkLIFE approached Fáilte Ireland to request the re-allocation of funding which had been set aside for the creation of parking lay-bys along this section of the N67 (but which following a feasibility study carried out by GeoparkLIFE was deemed economically unviable). Fáilte Ireland agreed and a screening report for AA for the reconstruction of the wall was prepared through the Environment Section of CCC and sent to the NPWS. Permission to proceed is currently awaited.

B2 working group meetings were held on 11 January and 4 April 2017.

Baseline Data

The baseline data reports for each of the seven demonstration sites are available to view on <http://www.burrengeopark.ie/geopark-life/tourism-studies/>

Interventions at Demonstration Sites

Since November 2016 the following actions have occurred:

- Carran Church:
 - Preparation and circulation of brief of work and tender documents;
 - ‘Architectural Conservation Professionals Limerick’ appointed;
 - Conservation report and Method statement for repairs to NW corner of Church currently being prepared

- Murrooghkilly cairn:
 - Draft site plans and report completed.
 - Reviewed by B2 working group and discussions held with consultant with regard to additions required for report.
 - Further field survey underway.
 - Report to be completed by March 30th 2017.

- Fanore and Poul nabrone
 - Preparation and manufacture of combined GeoparkLIFE/geosite signage completed.

- Slieve Carran and Burren National Park
 - Preparation of text and visuals for signage in conjunction with NPWS underway.

Reporting

The B2 update from July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016 was included in the Progress report sent to the EU Commission in February 2017.

