



B2 Habitats and Monuments

Key outcome: Visitor access, interpretation & management improved at 7 natural & heritage sites

Deliverables: Site selection & assessment, Work programme, Maintenance & monitoring, Report & evaluation

Proposed Location	Demonstration Value	Initial site visits; to provide an overview of the potential of each location to address the objectives of the Tourism for Conservation programme.
Flaggy Shore	Addressing interactions between visitors and locals, tourism capacity and disabled access	<p>This site was visited on May 20th.</p> <p>Items for discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for location to be highlighted on Wild Atlantic Way programme; can the location support increased visitors? • Popularity of the location for walkers. Flat paved road along shore is ideal for disabled access. Issue with walkers and local car usage of the roads. Identification of parking areas. • Access (including disabled) to the beach has been blocked to prevent coastal erosion. Scheme developed by Burren Connect with local community group ; attempt to implement it through LEADER/CLDC proved too expensive and onerous for local group. • Water quality (juxtaposition of fresh and sea water and commercial use for shellfish production) • Coastal erosion is an issue but was not discussed much on the field trip. • The quality and accessibility of geological and historical features were highlighted. <p>The site visit included a visit to Linalla Icecream Centre, one of the visitor attractions in the area. A walking trail is currently under development by the Geopark with the local community group, and sites along this trail were pointed out.</p>
Blackhead/Fanore	Addressing increase in tourism capacity and visibility in existing highly visited, visible and sensitive locations	<p>Visited on 29th April.</p> <p>Items for discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Wild Atlantic way route; potential increased visitor impacts, management of access/viewing points

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Ballyreen/Doolin	A case study for appropriate responses to increasing visitor expectations in a highly visited and protected area where agreed access, capacity and visitor management are major issues	<p>Visited on April 29th</p> <p>As with the previous location, this areas position on the Wild Atlantic Way will increase the pressures for access and viewing., further complicated by the land ownership; a commonage with 17 owners. Has been indicated by some of the commonage owners that if water storage issues were addressed, it may help with agreeing a common strategy for the area. This option has been explored with the help of NPWS and a local REPS/BFC advisor and it may be possible to find a solution.</p> <p>Initial proposal was also to include the Court Tomb at Doolin (Teergonean), but issues surrounding access to this tomb have been addressed. However, it is proposed to liaise with the local heritage group and offer assistance with their community heritage scheme.</p>
Route R480	Addressing route development and dispersal of visitors in an area rich in geological interest, tombs, mediaeval buildings, ring forts, churches	<p>Visited on May 10th</p> <p>This route was visited on There can be 3 starting points to this route; Kilfenora, Dysert O'Dea or Ballyvaughan. The route was highlighted in the Burren Monuments Strategy (1997) as offering an excellent selection of easily accessible monuments.</p> <p>The issues discussed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall signage of the route • Possibility of inclusion of Toonagh Quarry for visitors interested in Geology • Access and interpretation of Dysert O'Dea monuments complex • Linkages to the community project at An Cabhaill Mhor and XPO, Kilinaboy • Interpretation and access into Roughan Hill complex
Roughan Hill/Dysert O'Dea	A case study for an approach to an area rich in heritage	

	value with active, well organised local community groups willing to participate in a balanced approach to its conservation and promotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access issues and relations between OPW and owners of Leamaneh Castle • Potential to include Sheshymore pavement as a visitor site • Parking and structural consolidation at Carran Church • Security and on site toilets at Poul nabrone • Interpretation at Ballyallaban viewing point • Parking and access at Caher Mor and An Rath <p>Further comments made in communications after the site visit included signage, access and parking issues at Poulawack Cairn and utilising Aillwee Cave as a test case for visitor analysis and impacts.</p>
Lough Bunny	A test case for the development of visitor amenities in an undeveloped location of high natural and heritage value. Developed as a baseline indicator for other undeveloped areas, measuring the impacts on local communities, land owners, and businesses from a startup position	<p>Visited on May 20th The issues raised at this location were: Location on a busy regional road Illegal camping and littering Local controversy over parking facility Impact of tourism on the water quality of the Lough Development of routes is complex and not easily solved</p> <p>The issues surrounding this site are not resolved easily, and opinion is divided in the local community over its potential development as a visitor attraction. Suggestion to re-open discussions with Coillte on the potential to add value to the Attyslaney Wood trails.</p>
Slieve Carron	Addressing the development of publicly owned sites in vulnerable locations	<p>Visited on May 20th The issues raised at this location were: Very narrow roads leading to the site Vulnerability of St. Coleman's hermitage at Slieve Carron; distance from parking and sensitivity of the site and its monuments Increase in use as an educational site and general attraction Erosion along tracks at entrance to the hermitage Interpretation and visitor information.</p>

