



## ACTION B2 SITES AND MONUMENTS PROGRESS REPORT

5-9-2017

### ACTION B2 PROGRESS (April-September 2017)

#### Transferable Toolkits

##### 1. Monitoring App

Work has been continuing on the development of the Heritage sites monitoring App. This has included the testing and further development of the three sections of the App (Visitor observations, monuments and trails condition); the building of working screens, back end looks and full system requirements. The system is undergoing final testing at present.

##### 2. Heritage Map Viewer

Following feedback from members of the Steering Group and working groups, adjustments were made to the Heritage Map Viewer GeoparkLIFE section in June 2017. Relevant reports and linkages were entered onto the system in July. Final working adjustments are currently being made to the by Compass Infomatics and all work is expected to be complete by September 30, 2017 for launch at the GeoparkLIFE November conference.

#### Interventions at Demonstration Sites

Since March 2017 the following actions have occurred:

- Carran Church:
  - Conservation report and Method statement for repairs to NW corner of Church prepared
  - Ministerial consent received to undertake repairs
  - Tendering system undertaken and contractor appointed
  - An objection was received from the landowner to access to his land surrounding the church. He agreed to allow access when a fence was constructed along the current access path. He required this to prevent visitors from wandering through the surrounding field, where animals graze. This situation has been rectified; the landowner has given permission for the repair work to proceed (as of 26-8-17) while the ministerial notification for fencing is prepared and submitted. The notification was submitted on Sept. 6, 2017.
  
- Murrooghkilly cairn:
  - Conservation plan prepared by Aegis Ltd, agreed and finalised by B2 working group 25-5-17
  - Notification for proposed installation of rope fence around monument made to NMS (as per recommendation of Draft Conservation Plan) made 24-4-17. Permission received 1-6-17.
  - Notification for proposed works made to NMS and approved under archaeological excavation licence.
  - Draft Method statement for repair of prehistoric section of cairn prepared and discussed at a site meeting on 29-6-17.
  - Method statement currently being finalised following working group review.
  - Application for archaeological excavation licence to be made to NMS following agreement on method statement.

- Earthstone (stone masons) appointed (August 15<sup>th</sup>) to carry out repairs to ‘later’ top section of cairn. Method statement completed. NMS approval obtained to proceed. Work commencing 11-9-17.
- Murroghtoohy Wall
  - A request was received from local community members in Fanore for the construction of a more durable wall at Murroghkilly parking lay-by which is being constantly being knocked due to visitor pressure.
  - Fáilte Ireland agreed to use of funds originally allocated to parking lay-bys at Murroghtoohy.
  - 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 was granted March 3, 2017.
  - Three Quotations for the work were sought and a contractor appointed in late July.
  - Work will commence on the construction in late September when visitor numbers have decreased.
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- Fanore Beach and Dunes
  - A meeting was held with relevant personnel from the Environment and Engineering department of Clare County Council to discuss the implementation of the recommendations of the ‘*Fanore Coast and Dune Management Report 2016*’ on May 9, 2017. It was agreed that
    1. a topographical survey would be undertaken from the car park to beach to determine the suitable removal and replacement of the current boardwalk.
    2. The current fence around the dune area would be removed (or repaired in places) and new fence line instated as per Fanore report recommendations
    3. Action for replacement/removal of signage would be undertaken in line with signage report prepared by GeoparkLIFE.
  - Due to personnel changes within both department of the County Council over the summer months this work has been delayed. A further meeting is being planned for mid-September to update new personnel.
- GeoparkLIFE /Partners Signage
  - Installed at Fanore and Poul nabrone
  - Burren National Park and Slieve Carran signage designed and currently under manufacture
  - Carran Church, Aillwee Cave and Cahermore currently at design stage.

## **Reporting**

- Draft input for the GeoparkLIFE Layman’s report have been prepared and submitted.