

GEOPARK LIFE LOCATIONS LIST

Map Number	Location	Key Characteristics	Potential Demonstration Value	Demonstration value for Partners (Name of Organisation)	Research	Possible interventions or infrastructural works	Policies and training programmes
1	Flaggy Shore	<p>Within the Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation SAC (000268) and is also part of the Galway Bay Special Protection Area (SPA).</p> <p>Infrastructural issues surrounding coastal erosion; access to beach (including access for disabled people), undermining local access road, erosion of farm land, etc. The water tables in this area contain both fresh and sea water.</p> <p>On the proposed Wild Atlantic Way, and chosen as a Geopark site and trail; providing information on geology, biodiversity and heritage attractions. Good combination of natural and heritage sites of interest. Becoming increasingly popular with visitors and adverse visitor impacts can be especially felt during</p>	<p><b>Addressing Climate Change issues, interactions between visitors and locals, capacity and disabled access</b></p> <p>A case study for dealing with coastal erosion, water quality &amp; management, capacity, disabled access; producing a visitor management strategy &amp; policy balancing conservation with promotion (Wild Atlantic Way and Geopark) and access and visitor awareness of local living requirements, in collaboration with landowners, local representatives elected by the community and local businesses engaged with the B1 programme.</p>	<p><b>Please include in this column the items your organisation wishes to address and the opportunities your organisation sees for adding value as a demonstration site. Please ensure that you address both the conservation and the tourism objectives of the LIFE programme.</b></p>	<p><b>Please include in this column any research that has been carried out to date or may be required to develop a management and monitoring plan for these locations that address both the conservation and tourism objectives of the LIFE project</b></p>	<p><b>Please include in this column any potential interventions or infrastructural works that have been carried out to date or may be required to develop a management and monitoring plan for these locations that address both the conservation and tourism objectives of the LIFE project</b></p>	<p><b>Please include in this column any existing policies and training that you are aware of that should be considered and incorporated into the LIFE programme, again addressing both conservation and tourism objectives.</b></p>

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		<p>warm weather and long weekends. Immortalised in a Seamus Heaney poem.</p> <p>The lack of designated parking areas poses problems and there are regular instances of people camping and lighting fires at points along the shore. Tensions sometimes arise between locals driving to their homes and visiting pedestrians on the narrow coast road.</p> <p>A number of local businesses are involved in Burren Ecotourism Network.</p> <p>A group of local representatives, elected at a public meeting, have been working with the Geopark on access issues and the development of the Geopark trail and are willing to collaborate on any work undertaken with LIFE</p>					
<b>2</b>	<b>Blackhead /Fanore</b>	<p>Located in the Blackhead Poolsallagh Complex SAC (000020). Fanore sand dune is listed as Annex 1</p>	<b>Addressing increase in capacity and visibility in an existing highly visible location</b>				

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		<p>under the EU Habitat Directives. Fanore Dunes is owned in part by Clare County Council. Land has been purchased for parking areas along Blackhead. Agreement with landowners on access for trails at Blackhead.</p> <p>On the R477 coast road, voted one of the top 10 scenic drives in Europe by the Automobile Association. Earmarked as a key route in the Failte Ireland Wild Atlantic Way programme. A popular amenity area, used by swimmers, surfers, rock climbers, fishermen, walkers and cyclists. Popular summer home/caravan/house rental location.</p> <p>Issues relating to traffic congestion, erosion, illegal parking, severe littering, building mini-dolmens and cairns and, in the process, damage the limestone pavement, a priority habitat under the EU Habitats Directive. The dunes have been subject</p>	<p>Case study for a holistic assessment of, and response to, all aspects influencing the conservation and promotion a location of <u>existing high</u> heritage and tourism value and addressing the opportunity and challenge of increased visibility and capacity through the Wild Atlantic Way programme; producing a visitor management plan &amp; policy with the collaboration of landowners and local businesses engaged with the B1 programme that considers all of the criteria outlined in appendix 1.</p> <p><b>Addressing the issue of direct interventions and restoration</b></p> <p>Also a case study for balance restoration with preservation; how to decide how much direct intervention is required to stabilise a habitat or monument, and what</p>				
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		<p>to serious erosion over recent years from both natural and human pressure. Measures to combat erosion have been implemented under the Burren Connect project, which need to be assessed.</p> <p>Several types of cultural monuments; cairn, stone fort, deserted villages, some of whom are heavily impacted by visitors. A number of popular walking routes and a cycling route promoted by Shannon trails and the Geopark; trailheads at Fanore Dunes and village.</p> <p>A number of local businesses are involved in Burren Ecotourism Network.</p>	<p>methods must be employed to prevent future deterioration and visitor impacts.</p>				
<b>3</b>	<b>Ballyreen /Doolin</b>	<p>The presence of fine examples of Burren habitats makes this area, part of the Blackhead Poulsallagh Complex SAC (000020), of international scientific interest. Poulsallagh is also listed as a site of international</p>	<p><b>Addressing difficult access issues and integration of programmes in a highly visible area</b></p> <p>A case study for appropriate responses to increasing visitor</p>				

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		<p>geological/geomorphological importance by the Irish Geological Heritage Programme. Possibly one of the most scenic and accessible locations along the proposed Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>Poulsallagh is mainly held in commonage, and has historic difficulties with agreeing access and management issues between council/SD and owners. The area suffers greatly from visitor impact; it is a popular stopping off area for coach tours, camper vans, fishermen, rock climbers, walkers and film crews. The removal of stone walls, littering, erosion, fires and human waste are issues that require urgent management.</p> <p>Doolin and its surrounds is the most heavily visited area in the Burren. Aside from the pubs and music, the area has several natural and cultural heritage locations and attractions. Doolin will be</p>	<p>expectations in a highly visible and protected area where agreed access, capacity and visitor management are major issues.</p> <p>Also a case study on the integration of a range of separate development programmes ( Wild Atlantic Way, Cliffs Walk, Geopark projects, local conservation projects, Ecotourism Network activities) into a cohesive plan for an area.</p>				
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		<p>the trailhead for a Geopark walk and for the Cliffs of Moher walk, and is also a cycle hub for the region. A section of the coast near the pier is a Geopark site.</p> <p>A Court Tomb is located on the outskirts of Doolin village and is easily accessed from the road and the shore. A local heritage group are undertaking the conservation of a Medieval parish church and graveyard.</p> <p>A number of local businesses are involved in Burren Ecotourism Network.</p>					
4	R480	<p>This route runs through the centre of the Burren and has an array of prominent attractions and natural/cultural locations adjacent to it; Leamaneh Castle, Sheshymore Pavement, Carran Church and Meggah Depression, Caherconnel Fort, Poulabrone Dolmen, Ballyallaban viewing point, Cahermore, Aillwee caves</p>	<p><b>Addressing route development and dispersal of visitors</b></p> <p>A case study for the development of a route that addresses dispersal of visitors, capacity, planning, impacts, access, facilities, signage and visitor management in a holistic way involving landowners,</p>				

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		<p>and An Rath. A number of the sites are located within Moneen Mountain SAC 000054.</p> <p>Some of these locations are well managed, others have issues with access, conservation and interpretation. They are a mix of public and private ownership. Background research and some planning have been done on car parking for An Rath/Cahermore, and conservation/access issues on Carron Church.</p>	businesses and agencies.				
5	<b>Roughan Hill /Kilinaboy/ Dysert O’Dea</b>	<p>The area proposed is between Leamaneh Castle junction and Dysert O’Dea, taking in Kilinaboy and Corrofin. Parts lie within The East Burren Complex SAC 001926.</p> <p>It contains the Roughan Hill complex of archaeological monuments, Kilinaboy Early Christian and Medieval monuments, deserted villages, holy wells, traditional</p>	<p><b>Addressing local community participation and ownership</b></p> <p>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.</p>				

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		<p>farming features, Corrofin visitor centres and Dysert O’Dea Archaeological Complex. Geopark walking trails are currently being developed around Kilinaboy, Corrofin and Dysert O’Dea with local groups.</p> <p>The area also has a community centre, X-PO, out of which several groups operate which are dedicated to the recording and conservation of local history and culture, a genealogical centre, a museum, archaeological trail and the visitor centre for the Burren National Park. The area has a varied archaeological, cultural and farming landscape which has been researched and documented by anthropologists, archaeologists, botanists, geologists and local mapping groups.</p> <p>A number of local</p>					
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		businesses are involved in Burren Ecotourism Network.					
6	Lough Bunny	<p>Lying within the East Burren Complex SAC (001926) Lough Bunny and surrounding area is adjacent to the Burren National Park. The Lough itself has very high water quality ratings.</p> <p>Adjacent to the Lough is a small parking area with picnic tables and an interpretative panel. Access to the Lough shore is across the road, through Commonage lands. The owners of the commonage are in principle supportive of developing more managed access to the lake.</p> <p>The Lough shore and surrounding lands are subject to erosion, littering and minor vandalism is a problem.</p> <p>The proposal to create a Geopark trail in the area has brought up issues</p>	<p><b>Addressing the development of a relatively quiet location on a key access route and its impact on local economy and society</b></p> <p>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>				

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		relating to the challenges and opportunities of developing an amenity in an area with little visitor services. The Geopark Office has met with local people several times on this issue, many of whom are willing to work with the LIFE programme.					
7	<b>Slieve Carran Nature Reserve</b>	<p>Lying within the East Burren Complex SAC (001926), the Nature Reserve is owned and managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It is in an area where the roads are narrow, where there is little habitation and no adjacent visitor services.</p> <p>The nature reserve has trails and a number of archaeological features, the most popular being St. Mac Duagh's church and holy well. It is becoming increasingly popular as an attraction, placing the monument and its surrounds under pressure. The trails are also being impacted. Monitoring the impacts is an issue NPWS</p>	<p><b>Addressing the development of publicly owned sites in vulnerable locations</b></p> <p>A test case for policy surrounding the development, monitoring, management and promotion of vulnerable locations in public ownership in relatively inaccessible and undeveloped areas in terms of tourism infrastructure.</p>				

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