



**B2 WORKING GROUP
MEETING
MINUTES**

11-1-2017

DATE AND VENUE

The GeoparkLIFE B2 Working Group Meeting was held in the Old Ground Hotel, Ennis on Wednesday January 11, 2017 from 10am to 1pm.

ATTENDANCE

In attendance: Enda Mooney (EM), Christine Grant (CGr), Ken Curley (KW), Emma Glanville (EG), Joanne Gaffrey (JG), Gabriel Cooney (GC), Dick Croinin (DC), Carol Gleeson (CG), Eamon Doyle (ED) and Zena Hctor (ZH).

Apologies: Beatrice Kelly (BK), Sharon Parr (SP)

ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

Item	Discussion	Action	Responsibility
Item 1: Agreement of minutes	Minutes of last meeting held 7-9-16 were agreed.		
Item 2: Demonstration Sites Update	<p>Slieve Carran: Inter departmental talks will be long term and unlikely to be complete by the end of the LIFE project. The issue of ownership of the area around the oratory has yet to be resolved. The specific issues raised at Slieve Carran with regard to the non-integration of management planning between agencies within one government department will inform the development of site management and visitor management guidelines for other similar sites under the LIFE project. Depending on ownership of a site different parties will be responsible for implementation of these guidelines. NMS are currently working on similar guidelines for archaeological sites.</p> <p>CGr and EM agreed to work together on a management strategy for the archaeological sites that are located on state owned land within the Burren, including Slieve Carran. This agreed strategy will then be forwarded to the Department for comment.</p> <p>Replacement of signage at site is required.</p>	<p>Development of draft integrated management strategy between NMS and NPWS in the Burren</p> <p>Existing signs at Slieve Carran to be removed and template for new signage to be developed</p>	<p>CGr and EM</p> <p>ZH & ED to develop a suggested design and to agree text/visuals</p>

	<p>The following issue was raised for future discussion: should the access path from the entrance gate of the Nature Reserve to the Oratory be gravelled to permit easier access and address health and safety? Or will this change the character of the place? Some of the paths within the Reserve were gravelled in November 2016. Should GeoparkLIFE carryout an evaluation of this using VSPG guideline?</p> <p>Burren National Park The Traffic and Visitor Management Plan is underway. CG & ZH met with appointed consultant in October for initial briefing. Comments have been received by the GeoparkLIFE office from local residents that consultation is very limited and written submissions do not appear to have been considered. EM stated that the draft plan would be available this week for further public consultation and 2nd public meeting will be held in the final week of January. One of the most controversial proposals of the plan is likely to be the proposed closure of the Green Road and \Crag Road to address the issue of parking along these roads causing obstruction. DC suggested that 'no parking' signage should be installed first to determine if this lessened the problem. The draft plan will be circulated for comment prior to the next public meeting.</p> <p>Blackhead lay-bys The feasibility study found that of the original 14 areas purchased for lay-by development, three are suitable in terms of space available and sightlines. Two of these areas will require infilling due to uneven levels and drainage. Both areas have dry calcareous grassland habitat and therefore would have to be screened out for AA. Due to the potential removal of some of the habitat and the hydrology issues involved, it is likely that a full AA would be required in the longer term. Following an AA, the areas could be deemed unsuitable for development, unless passed under Article 6.4, which would involve a lengthy procedure. The process would be costly and the economic return would be the potential development of three lay-bys which could accommodate approximately 10 cars in total. The B2 group agreed to obtain opinion of Sheila Downes, Environment Officer, Clare Co. Co.</p> <p>Murroghkilly Cairn Brief of work agreed with Aegis Archaeology on Sept 6, 2016. Consultant asked to proceed with Phase I of the project on Sept. 14th as per brief. The detailed site plan required under Phase I will</p>	<p>For consideration and future discussion</p> <p>Comments to be made on draft BNP Traffic and Visitor Management Plan</p> <p>Feasibility report to be sent to Sheila Downes Environment Office CCC to obtain opinion on economic viability of proceeding with AA on two areas.</p>	<p>with EG and EM.</p> <p>All B2 working group members</p> <p>CG, ZH & ED</p> <p>ZH</p>
--	---	---	---

	<p>inform implementation of Phase II (including repair work on the cairn by a group of volunteers). A field survey undertaken by Aegis on Sept 28th in conjunction with a drone survey by UCD School of Archaeology. Report for phase I received from Aegis on 14th November. The report did not satisfactorily address the items specified in the brief. Following review by CGr, ZH & CG, in early December, Aegis Archaeology were asked for further information and to complete the report as required. The revised report has not been received to date.</p> <p>Issues to be addressed are the sourcing of stone and transport to site if conservation work is to proceed following approval of Phase I report. Air lifting stone up to the site is not an option due to cost and impact. It may be an option to obtain a certain amount of loose stone from around the site but it is unclear how much would be available and how much is required (as this is one of the areas not detailed to date in the report received from Aegis).</p> <p>Fanore Workplan from MaREI report to be implemented</p> <p>An Rath/Cahermore No response from landowner's agent to date. Has been contacted several times.</p> <p>Carran Church ACP Ltd. appointed to prepare PSDP documents and tenders for construction contractor. To be completed by early March. Ministerial consent applied for and awaited.</p> <p>Signage KC sent draft template of uniform site signage to visitor services section of OPW. Response awaited. EM agreed to allow signage to be installed on pilot basis for 1 year in BNP/Slieve Carran sites.</p>	<p>Finish Phase I report</p> <p>Visit site and identify how much stone is available on site/in the farmyard; determine is it suitable for use and how far it must be transported</p> <p>Determine with engineers/environment section of CCC plan of work</p> <p>Seek permission to proceed with Part 8 planning process from landowner</p> <p>Circulation of tender to construction contractors</p> <p>Draft signage to be developed for all demonstration sites for consultation with site managers</p>	<p>Aegis Archaeology</p> <p>CGr, ZH & ED (ask Penny Bartlett NPWS to accompany team to site)</p> <p>CG & ZH</p> <p>CG</p> <p>DC</p> <p>ZH & ED</p>
Item 3: Project Toolkits	<p>The toolkits for B2 are the monitoring app and the Heritage Map Viewer.</p> <p>Two tablets for testing the app were received from CCC IT section 10-1-17 and testing will begin asap. Agreement had been reached in October with MAC Ltd to further develop the app over the months of Oct-Jan. However due to the time period in acquiring the tablets and testing has yet to take place, this time schedule will now have to be re-visited and the availability of MAC to complete the work determined.</p>	<p>Testing of app and compilation of required changes/additions</p>	<p>EG, KC, ZH and Eoin Hogan (Rural Recreation Officer)</p>

	<p>Issues still to be addressed are who will own/manage/host the app into the future and how will use be controlled. It is most likely that CCC IT will take initial control and will have copyright of the front interface.</p> <p>The Heritage Map Viewer - the Burren GeoparkLIFE folders are currently being completed and linkages and metadata being identified and included. The draft site will soon be available for review by the working group and steering group and inclusion of additional information.</p>		
Item 4: End of Project Reporting	The overall project will be developing guidelines for destination management. B2 will specifically be dealing with integrated management benefits for heritage sites and a holistic approach to site selection, baseline data collection, actions, monitoring and management. The demonstration sites will be used as case studies to illustrate these guidelines.		
AOB	The issue of the new additional inland routes added to the Wild Atlantic Way was raised. They are narrow roads which are completely unsuitable to be promoted as tourist routes. The Crag Road is one of the routes included and this is in direct conflict with the work of the GeoparkLIFE project.	Inform relevant County Engineers	CG
	<p>Next meeting: April 4, 2017</p> <p>Planned meetings for remainder of year:</p> <p>June 7th</p> <p>September 6th</p> <p>(all 2017 meetings will be amalgamated with the B3 working group meetings)</p>		