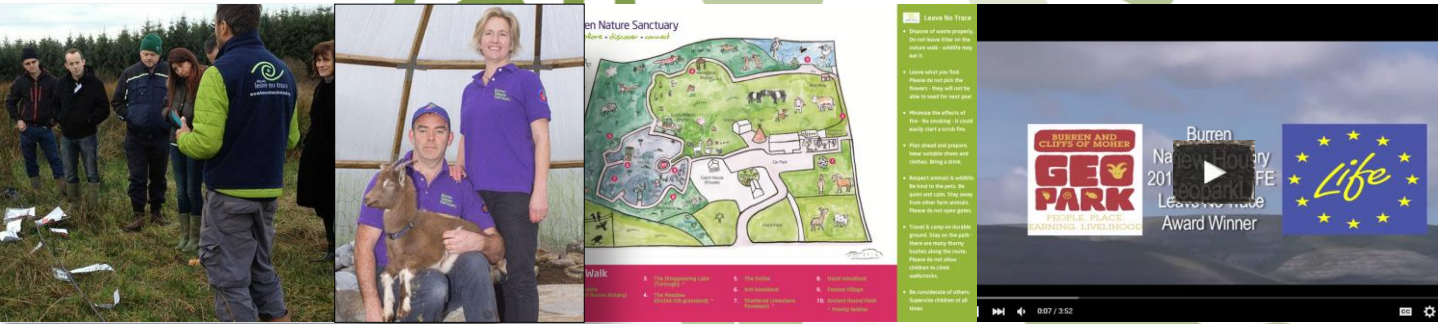


Leave No Trace Award

The Burren Nature Sanctuary, Kinvara

Geopark Sustainable Code of Practice Award Winner



Click on the arrow above to Watch the Video

Who they are: The Burren Nature Sanctuary is set on 50 acres of karst limestone farmland; it is a family focused interpretive centre for the natural history of the Burren where visitors, learn about the flora, fauna and limestone karst landscape of the region and leave armed with the tools to visit the Burren landscape in a sustainable way. Opening in 2013 the Burren Nature Sanctuary joined the Burren Ecotourism network and undertook the Geopark code of practice for sustainable tourism in their first year of business.

What they did: The Burren Nature Sanctuary Manager Mary Birmingham completed the Leave no Trace train the trainer training programme provided under the Geopark Code of practice programme. Mary used her knowledge and certification to train all the Nature Sanctuary staff in the principles of Leave No Trace and then went on to develop a programme for primary school children which includes a visit to the nature sanctuary along with pre and post visit lesson plans on Leave No Trace and the natural history of the Burren. The lesson plans were developed in line with the curriculum with input from a teacher.

Outcome: The staff training has led to a greater understanding of conservation among staff and an ability to communicate the principles to the visitors to the sanctuary which enhances their experience and understanding of the area.

The Leave no Trace school tours have added extra revenue with 1000 children undertaking the tour in June 2014. As a result of the tours the Burren Nature Sanctuary has been featured on national television on RTE 1 'Countrywide' and 'Ear to the Ground' as an example of successful sustainable agritourism- filmed in June

Top Tip: Delivering conservation education in a fun and hands-on way has led to a greater understanding and a memorable experience.