

Causses-Cevennes; Dalslands and Eastern Hills of Cluj cross-visit to Burren

Dates: October 24th to October 28th (Programme Annex 1)

Host reflections on cross-visit:

Overall the visit and the agenda worked well. All events took place as planned and within the proposed timeframes. Combining the cross visits with the Burren Winterage Festival gave the opportunity for a more in depth experience of the range of activities in the Burren region. However this is not without its logistical challenges and would not have been possible with the efforts of the learning area partner staff, volunteers and local community. This gave the added bonus to attend a range of other festival events and cultural interaction with stakeholders from around Ireland and Europe. Also gave the delegates to experience the Burren culture—mainly through the sharing of traditional music – between the host community and the visiting group. Feedback from the host team – farmers and others – was very positive. The participating enjoyed hosting the groups and sharing ideas with them. The evident interest by the visiting groups in the work in the Burren instils confidence in host organization and participating farmers that they are undertaking worthwhile work in the area and reinvigorates them to continue along this pathway. It is also a good opportunity for us as hosts to reflect on what we do, how we do it and how we can do it better. Every visiting group brings new perspectives and new knowledge. Hosting three groups at the one time despite the logistical challenges lead for lively discussions and conversations.

A good mix of indoor and outdoor sessions incorporating farm visits was very useful. It is important to brief all hosting farms and businesses on the purpose of the trip and profile of participants. It was also very important that visiting farmers could speak directly with host farmers, visiting researchers with host researchers, visiting administrators with host administrators etc.: having a ‘messenger’ you can relate to often makes the message itself more relevant and plausible. This was particularly important to facilitate this one to one engagement when a range of groups from different learning areas are undertaking cross visits at the one time. It meant that as hosts (Burrenbeo trust, Burren Programme, IT Sligo and GMIT), we needed to have a larger number of staff and volunteers on farm visits and at events so that the visiting groups had some time to talk one to one with people directly involved in various initiatives in the Burren learning area. This was made possible by coinciding the cross visits with the Burren Winterage festival which has become an annual gathering of local actors and wider stakeholders from around Ireland and Europe involved in similar work.

A four day programme coinciding with the Burren Winterage festival allowed for visiting groups to experience a range of innovations and initiatives both inside and outside the learning area. Initiatives from outside LA of particular relevance to the cross-visit overall theme were incorporated into the day long field trips and innovation fair on day 2. Visiting groups had also the opportunity to attend the national agri-environment conference on day 1 which gave a good overview of how the Burren programme has become the inspiration or range of EIP operational groups in HNV farmland areas around Ireland. It also gave participants the opportunity to network with approximately 260 advisors, researchers, farmers and government officials working on agri-environment programmes in Ireland. This event in particular highlighted how the ‘Burren approach’ can be adapted to work for other landscapes and farming systems.

The field trips on day 2 and in particular the engaging discussions and questions from the visiting groups allowed us to see the Burren LA (and neighboring Sleva Aughty mountain region) through the eyes of the visitors highlights opportunities for next steps for host LA. In this regard some points raised included the need for a greater valorization of High Nature Value farming through tourism and marketing potential of the area. Need for

a particular focus to improve tourism management and that lessons may be available from other LAs in consortium; enhancement of direct links and opportunities between farming and tourism; and need for marketing and product development.

Some quotes from host farmers and participants were:

“Environmental farming has a major role to play in the future of farming in Ireland” Michael Davoren-Burren IFA.

In relation to developing EIP initiatives “need to develop a model of community stewardship” Brendan Dunford Burren Programme.

Annex 1: Programme CROSS VISIT to BURREN



Burren Winterage School and HNV-Link Cross Visits 2018

Farming for Nature

24th -28th Oct 2018

Gort & Kinvara, Co. Galway

HNV_LINK Cross Visit Final Programme

Visiting Groups:

CIHAEM-IAMM (France)	2 arrive 24 th
Causses & Cevennes (France)	5 arrive 24 th ; depart afternoon 28 th
Dalslands (Sweden)	12 arrive 24 th ; depart early morning 28 th
Eastern Hills of Cluj (Romania)	5 arrive 24 th ; depart early morning 28 th

Host Facilitators:

James Moran (Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology on behalf of LA Coordinator IT Sligo). Will facilitate group from 25th and 28th of October

Email: james.moran@gmit.ie Mobile Phone: +353 86 6063949;

Brendan Dunford (Burrenbeo Trust)

Email: Brendan@burrenlife.com Mobile phone: +353 87 2841236

Wednesday, 24th October 8:00pm-10pm Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort

8:30pm – 10pm **Welcome** (Informal Meet and Greet with facilitators+ Introduction to the area, the actors involved and some innovations around stakeholder engagement from the Burrenbeo Trust)

Thursday, 25th October 9.30am-5pm Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort

Pre-conference event on Thursday 25th October:

9.30am -4pm **Teagasc National Agri-environment conference**

From Burren Beginnings to Locally Led EIP's

Venue: Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort.

Entry free but booking required - see

www.teagasc.ie/news--events/national-events/events/national-agri-environment.php

5.30pm -7pm

Dinner

Venue: Gallery Cafe, Gort.

Notes on Meals (Thursday):

Assume **Breakfast** is provided with your accommodation

Lunch and coffee is organised as part of this conference and cost of **€15** is to be paid by each participant

Dinner Venue Gallery Café Gort (5:30pm – 7:00pm): Dinner reservation made. Estimated cost for 2 courses **€20**

Thursday, 25th October 7.30pm-10pm Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort

6pm – 7.30pm

Burren Winterage School - Registration & Welcome

7.30- 9.30pm

Session 1: HNV LINK – sharing European innovations

Chair: James Moran (Galway Mayo Institute of Technology - GMIT)

Presentations: High Nature Value (HNV) Landscapes from across Europe (Sweden, France, Romania, Estonia, the UK) present a brief insight into their region, some HNV innovations that have worked for them, and the challenges that they most urgently need to address in future. See www.hnmlink.eu for more information.

Followed by a chaired discussion and a drinks reception.

Guidelines for presenting LAs:

Duration: 15 minutes for HNV-Link LAs, focus on introducing LA keeping it as visual as possible for general audience (mix of local community, farmers, advisors, academics and government administration); Idea would be to make it a light, interactive event so we get to know each other and each other's ideas and challenges. Hope to have 5 minutes from non-HNV Link participants e.g. Estonia, UK-Wales, some Irish participants. Can provide laptop and projector.

Friday, 26th October, 9am-5pm Starting from Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort

9am-10am
(open)

Welcome and Field Trip Briefing. (Registration desk also open)

10am- 5pm
Slieve Aughty regions

Session 2: HNV Field Trips to the Burren and

Visits to two 'locally led' agri-environment schemes, both of which include a results-based payments approach

Leaders: Burren Programme – Sharon Parr
www.burrenprogramme.com

Hen Harrier Project – Caroline Sullivan
www.henharrierproject.ie

5.30pm -7pm

Includes coach transfers and lunch in Gort (1-2pm). All delegates will have a chance to visit both projects.

Dinner (chance to discuss informally any emerging questions on results based payment schemes)

Venue: Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort.

Notes on Meals (Friday):

Assume **Breakfast** is provided with accommodation

Lunch is covered under Burren Winterage school registration fee

Dinner Venue Lady Gregory (5:30pm to 7pm): Dinner reservation made. Estimated cost for 2 courses **€20**

Friday, 26th October, 7.30pm – 9.30pm Gort Livestock Mart, Gort

7.30pm -9.30pm

Session 3: Farming for Nature Innovation Fair

A hands-on look at innovations in animal health, breeding and nutrition as well as discussion and demonstrations on the use of new technologies in managing livestock on high nature value farmland.

Chair: Michael Davoren (Burren Farmer)

Themes: Livestock breeding and management for rough pastureland
Animal nutrition – supplementary feeding options to optimise foraging
High Tech solutions to livestock management on HNV farmland
and much more...

10pm - late Farming and nature - songs from the land
An unforgettable night of songs at Whelan's Pub, Shanaglish, Gort.

Saturday, 27th October 9am – 5pm Kinvara Community Centre, Kinvara

9 - 11am Session 4: Farming for Nature: the broader context

Chair: (Burren Farmer)

Speakers: Annabelle Williams (RISE Foundation) – *A Safe Operating Space for Livestock Farming in Europe*
Kevin Hanrahan (Teagasc) – *Brexit: Potential Implications for High Nature Value farmers*
John Sweeney (NUI Maynooth) – *Winners and Losers in Agriculture as Climate Changes.*
Liam McHale (Irish Farmers Association, Brussels Office): *Global trade deals, evolving CAP discussions and the potential impact for HNV farmers*

11 – 11.30am Tea & Coffee Break

11.30 - 1pm Session 5: 'Understanding farmers' views about things.'

Chair: Aine Macken Walsh (Teagasc)

Speaker: Frank Vanclay, Department of Cultural Geography, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Followed by a Q&A with Frank Vanclay and a panel of invited guests, chaired by Dr. Aine Macken Walsh (Teagasc)

1- 2pm **Lunch** provided at Merriman Hotel, Kinvara.

2 – 3pm Session 6: Farming for Nature – Stories from the land

Chair: Brendan Dunford (Burren Programme)

Format: *Five short films on farming for nature followed by a chaired Q&A session with some 2018 Farming for Nature Award Nominees*

3.15 – 4.45pm

Session 7: Networks for Nature

Chair: (Burren Farmer)

Speakers: Fabrice Gouriveau (HNV LINK Project) – *HNV-Link: Networking for High Nature Value farming innovation*
Liam Lysaght (National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)) – *How the work of the NBDC can support farming for nature.*
Tilman Disselhoff (European Land Conservation Network-ELCN) - *Farmers and conservation organisations as partners – lessons from two continents*

4.45 - 5pm

Conference Summary and Close

Brendan Dunford, James Moran, Michael Davoren

5.30pm -7:30pm

Dinner

Venue: Keoghs, Kinvara.

Includes HNV-Link Debrief: Review of learnings over the Burren visit and planning of next steps (Closing workshop; possibility to have additional meeting on Sunday morning with visiting groups who are not departing early)(includes meeting with Mairead McGuinness (MEP-Vice President European Parliament))

(replaces general winterage school event: Community event featuring children’s art competition
Includes music, wine reception and light refreshments)

8 - 9:30pm

Bord Bia *National Farming for Nature Award 2018*
Visit www.farmingfornature.ie for more information
Compere: Ella McSweeney
Guest Speaker: Mairead McGuinness (MEP)

9.30pm

Option to enjoy – and participate in! - entertainment in local hostelrys

Notes on Meals (Saturday):

Assume **Breakfast** is provided with accommodation

Lunch is covered under Burren Winterage school registration fee

Dinner Venue Keoghs (5:30pm to 7pm): Dinner reservation made. Estimated cost for 2 courses **€20**

Post-conference events:

11am - 4pm Sunday 28th October

The Annual Burren Winterage Cattle Drive

The Burren Food Fayre

Additional Event (tbc): HNV LINK and ELCN delegates' Closing Workshop

Review of learnings over the Burren visit and planning of next steps

Time and venue tbc, subject to delegate availability

Annex 2: Photos













