

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark Winter Newsletter

EXPERIENCES,
IT'S IN OUR
NATURE 



Cuilcagh Mountain Park, Co Fermanagh



**CUILCAGH
LAKELANDS
GEO PARK**



**Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin**
Cavan
County Council



**Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council**
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Geopark Secures Funding For Major Projects

Cross Border Scoping Peatland Project

In collaboration with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council's Climate Change and Sustainable Development team, we have been successful in securing almost £271,000 funding to deliver a Cross Border Peatlands Scoping Project.

The project, which has been funded by the NIEA through the Shared Island Peatlands Challenge Fund, aims to enhance opportunities for peatland restoration within Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and Cavan County Council areas. Three specific areas of blanket bog focus have been selected Gortin Lakes, Cuilcagh Mountain and Cuilcagh Anierin within West Fermanagh and West Cavan.

Baseline scientific surveys will be carried out to identify restoration opportunities. This information will be used to create Peatland Restoration Plans for each site and will include ongoing scientific monitoring.

The site at Gortin Lakes will be developed as a peatland restoration demonstration site allowing the piloting and sharing of knowledge to a range of stakeholders and contractors on peatland restoration techniques. Community engagement and the development of citizen science, volunteering and peatland educational programme will also be undertaken on a cross-border basis. This will help to encourage skills development and raise awareness of the importance of our peatlands.

The project is being delivered in partnership with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Cavan County Council, NIEA, National Parks & Wildlife Service and Coillte.

Shared Island Civic Society Fund

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, in partnership with Ballyhoura Development Group, have been awarded €31,964 funding for an Engaging Sustainable Tourism Communities Project. The project aims to facilitate cross border learning and sharing of best practice and promote collaboration through the development of sustainable cross-border civic relationships that can enhance tourism visibility and cooperation under the Fáilte Ireland Hidden Heartlands brand proposition for community and business beneficiaries.

INTERREG Northern Periphery and Artic

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark has been awarded €124,163 as part of a €1,2 million project, in partnership with Geocamp Iceland, Visit Reykjanes, Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Gold of Lapland Economic Association and Olemisen Balanssia ry. The three year Regenerative Tourism Project aims to build resilient communities and preserve unique heritage.

Cuilcagh Mountain



Walking Trails Upgrade Works

The **Seán Éamonn Ruairí Trail**, commemorates the last generation of native speakers in Co Cavan, and particularly Seán Éamonn Ruairí, who was born in 1849 in Legnagrow, in the foothills of Cuilcagh Mountain, where he spent his entire life. The site is a key provision for recreational access to West Cavan and Cuilcagh Lowlands, providing recreational long distance walking routes in this scenic area of the Geopark, for locals and visitors alike.

The **Cavan Way** is situated in the centre of a great inland recreation area stretching from the Erne Lakes in Fermanagh to the North Leitrim Glens. The marked trail of the Way

extends for 26km from Blacklion to Dowra. It links up with the Ulster Way at Blacklion.

The Geopark in conjunction with Cavan Rural Recreation Officer recently secured funding of a combined €50,272 to carry out maintenance and upgrade works to these trails. With €40,272 coming from Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and €10,000 from Department for Rural and Community Development's Walks Scheme which enabled us in partnership with local communities to carry out a number of improvements including;

- installation of a number of stiles

- replacement and installation of finger posts
- installation of updated information panels
- installation of accessible benches

We hope you get an opportunity to get out and enjoy these trails in the months ahead.



Cavan Way

Water Wheel Restored at Tully Mill Restaurant

Tully Mill Restaurant, located in Florencecourt, Co Fermanagh originally was the corn mill for the Florence Court estate in the 18th Century. The building was rescued from dereliction in 1998 by Killesher Community Development Association who converted the building into a restaurant, along with the construction of self-catering holiday cottages and a community centre.

Now part of our Regenerative

Tourism Business Network, the Restaurant is stunning, with an enchanting atmosphere, and serves delicious food.

Recently, the Killesher Community Development Association received funding from The National Lottery Fund. As part of this project the old water wheel at the Restaurant was restored which will see it generating electricity for the historic site.

The restoration of the water wheel is not only important to the heritage of the area, but it also really adds to the unique atmosphere of Tully Mill Restaurant.

Water Wheel at Tully Mill Restaurant



Geopark Visitor Information Panels Are Getting A Facelift

The Geopark team have secured funding to update visitor information panels in the villages of Belcoo, Letterbreen, Kesh, Lisnarick and Garrison. Working with the communities in each area, the Geopark team are hoping to co-design the content and imagery for the panels to ensure they reflect the local heritage, landscape and visitor offering unique in each area.

The team are working to secure further funding to extend this programme to other Geopark communities in West Fermanagh. Is there an unloved visitor information panel in your area? Let us know by emailing info@cuilcaghlandlands.org.

Could you be a Geopark Ambassador?

Our Geopark Ambassadors are a group of highly skilled and knowledgeable heritage enthusiasts who play a crucial role in the life of the Geopark. The role of an Ambassador varies from shaping our education and events programme, enabling community based sustainable tourism, providing open and direct contact with our Geopark communities and acting as advocates for their local community's heritage needs and aspirations.

We are delighted to have secured funding to deliver a new Geopark Ambassador Programme in Spring 2025.

If you are passionate about heritage in your area and want to join a group of

like-minded, collaborative individuals to hone your skills, share knowledge and grow expertise to help ensure the unique landscapes of the Geopark are understood, interpreted and celebrated by all for many generations to come, please register your interest by emailing info@cuilcaghlakelands.org.



Geopark Ambassadors

Calling All Schools in the Geopark – FREE Fossil Science Workshops



We are offering free outreach workshops to Primary and National Schools, in partnership with University College Cork, as part of the NI Science Festival on Wednesday 19 & Friday 21 February 2025 at 10am-11.30am and 12.30pm-2pm.

At these workshops, pupils will have the chance to take part in hands on, engaging experiments to learn about

geological time, the different types of fossils found in the Geopark and the process of fossilisation.

These 90 minute outreach sessions will be available to all Primary and National Schools in the Geopark on a first come, first served basis. Details will be sent to all schools in the coming days on how to book. For any further information please contact us at the Geopark office.



Tourism Conference 2025

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council is hosting the Tourism Conference 2025, Tourism via a Regenerative Lens on Thursday 27 February in the Killyhevlin Lakeside Hotel, Enniskillen. To register your attendance [click here](#)

Tourism Conference 2025
Tourism via a Regenerative Lens

27 FEB
8.45AM - 1PM

Speakers:
Cian Murphy M.A. Minister for the Economy
Dina Carroll Director of Product Development, Fáilte Ireland
Gráinne O'Connor Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark Manager
MC & Speaker: Páil O'Connell, Travel Writer with 10th Anniversary Anniversary

Killyhevlin Lakeside Hotel and Lodges, Enniskillen

What's On?

St Mogue's Island Guided Tour

Sunday 2 February
12 noon-3.30pm

St Mogue's Island, Co Cavan
Join Geopark Ambassador and local history expert, Aidan for a boat trip to the historic St Mogue's Island. Learn about the fascinating history of the area and the story of St Mogue.

2-Day Basket Weaving Course

Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 March
10am-4pm

Castle Island, Co Fermanagh
Join our Geopark Ambassador, Stephen to work with natural materials and experience the ancient craft of willow weaving. Over the course of two days, you will practice the skills of weaving a traditional round willow breadbasket.

Bringing St Brigid's Cloak to Life

Saturday 15 March
10am-12 noon
Dowra Courthouse, Co Cavan

An opportunity for West Cavan and South West Fermanagh communities and contributors to view the cloak made in arts project, Bringing St Brigid's Cloak to Life.

For more information, booking, and a full list of our events please visit our [website: here](#).