

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark

Summer Newsletter 2026

EXPERIENCES,
IT'S IN OUR
NATURE 



 **Cuilcagh Boardwalk Trail, Co Fermanagh**



**CUILCAGH
LAKELANDS
GEOPARK**



**Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin**
Cavan
County Council



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

Know Before You Go Guides - Campaign Launch

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark has launched a new series of “Know Before You Go” Guides aimed at improving accessibility and enhancing the visitor experience across the region. Developed in partnership with our Regenerative Tourism Business Network, the initiative represents an important step towards creating a more inclusive destination for residents and visitors alike.

The first of 100 destination-wide guides were unveiled at a launch event at Blue Green Yonder on Castle Island, Enniskillen, attended by tourism businesses, community groups, accessibility advocates and public representatives.

Designed to support visitors with physical disabilities, sensory needs and neurodivergent conditions, the guides provide clear and practical information on attractions, trails, accommodation providers and visitor facilities throughout the Geopark. They include details on accessibility features, sensory considerations and site-specific information, enabling visitors to make informed decisions and plan their trips with greater confidence.

Know Before You Go Guides
Launched at Blue Green
Yonder



The project was inspired by the Geopark’s participation in the Divergently Together Project and responds to growing evidence that a lack of accessible information remains one of the biggest barriers to travel for many people.

As part of the Geopark’s wider commitment to regenerative tourism, the guides aim to reduce uncertainty, support independent travel and encourage more people to enjoy the region’s unique landscapes, heritage and outdoor experiences. The guides are available at www.cuilcaghlakelands.org.

Look out for the Know Before You Go accessibility logo



Finland Visit Strengthens Regenerative Tourism Collaboration



INTERREG Regenerate
Project Partners meet in
Finland

Recently, Geopark Development Officer, Karan and Assistant Development Officer, Clarissa travelled to Finland to participate in a partner meeting as part of the INTERREG Regenerate Project.

The visit brought together organisations from across the Northern Periphery Arctic region, including partners from Finland, Iceland and Sweden, to share knowledge, review project progress and explore innovative approaches to regenerative tourism and sustainable development.

During the meeting, Karan and Clarissa took part in workshops and collaborative sessions, exchanged best practice with international partners and explored local case studies showcasing regenerative tourism in action. The team also presented recent developments from Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark and gained valuable insights into initiatives being delivered across partner destinations.

The INTERREG Regenerate Project supports regions in transitioning towards regenerative models of tourism and community development. Participation in the project continues to strengthen international partnerships and provides valuable learning opportunities that can be applied across Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, helping to build resilient communities and a sustainable visitor economy for the future.

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

Northern Periphery and Arctic

Cavan County Council Partners In New Cross-Border UNESCO Network Connecting Heritage Sites Across Ireland

Cavan County Council, through Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, has joined an exciting new all-island partnership that will connect UNESCO-designated sites across Ireland for the first time. The UNESCO Together Project, funded through the PEACEPLUS Change Makers Programme, will be delivered over the next two years in partnership with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Mourne, Gullion, Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark. The project will officially be launched at an event on Wednesday 2 September 2026.

The initiative will establish a cross-border network linking UNESCO Global Geoparks, World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves and Creative Cities, fostering greater collaboration through shared landscapes, heritage and culture. A key objective is the development of a strategic roadmap for long-term cooperation between UNESCO sites, including the exploration of a future UNESCO Tourism Trail.



Bringing together all 14 UNESCO sites across the island, along with six tentative UNESCO sites, the project will deliver workshops, community exchanges, creative programmes, environmental initiatives and cultural storytelling activities. UNESCO Together represents a valuable opportunity to celebrate Ireland's rich heritage, strengthen cross-border connections and support sustainable tourism, education and community development.

Stormont Event Showcases Northern Ireland's UNESCO Sites

Representatives from across Northern Ireland's UNESCO Network recently gathered at Stormont to celebrate the launch of the Our Special Places video series, a new initiative designed to raise awareness of the region's internationally recognised UNESCO designations.

The series includes a showcase film introducing Northern Ireland's five UNESCO designations, alongside individual short videos highlighting the unique character, global significance and local importance of each site. Featured locations include Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark, Mourne, Gullion, Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark, the Giant's Causeway UNESCO World Heritage Site, Belfast UNESCO City of Music and Gracehill UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Funded through the UK National Commission for UNESCO's Local to Global 2.0 Community Grants Scheme, the project highlights the important role UNESCO sites play in protecting heritage, supporting communities and promoting sustainable tourism.

The event also provided an opportunity to explore future opportunities for UNESCO recognition and collaboration, while showcasing the rich natural, cultural and creative heritage that makes these special places globally significant.



Our Special Videos Launch at Stormont

Outdoor Recreation Conference

We were delighted to be represented at the National Outdoor Recreation Conference 2026, held in the Slieve Russell Hotel. Geopark Manager, Gráinne, participated in the cross-border session, delivering a presentation titled “Recreation, Regenerative Tourism and Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark – Celebrating Place, Heritage & Cross Border Collaboration.”

The session highlighted the importance of cross-border partnerships in supporting sustainable outdoor recreation while protecting and promoting the region’s rich natural and cultural heritage. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to connect with colleagues and partners from across Ireland, sharing ideas and working together to build a more sustainable future for outdoor recreation.



Shannon Pot Discovery Centre: Exciting Progress Continues

Thanks to the fantastic weather this summer, construction work on the new Discovery Centre is advancing at an excellent pace. The project is really beginning to take shape, with the recent installation of the building’s windows marking another significant milestone. The exterior is now starting to reflect its final appearance, offering a glimpse of what visitors can look forward to.

Located at the source of Ireland’s longest river, this exciting new attraction will provide locals and visitors alike with a unique opportunity to explore this



remarkable natural landmark while enjoying the stunning surrounding landscape.

Castle Saunderson Trails Improvement Works Completed

Visitors to Castle Saunderson can now enjoy an even better outdoor experience following the completion of a range of improvement works across the trail network. The upgrades included resurfacing sections of the trails, enhancing drainage systems, repairing areas affected by erosion, and introducing accessibility improvements.

These important works have made the trails safer, more accessible, and more enjoyable for walkers, runners, families, and outdoor enthusiasts. They will also help protect and preserve the trail network for years to come, ensuring that visitors can continue to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Castle Saunderson.



Before



After

Sharing Knowledge on Peatland Restoration

In July, Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark welcomed staff from Coillte for a visit focused on peatland restoration and partnership working. The day provided an opportunity to share updates on current and future restoration projects before heading out onto Cuilcagh to see successful restoration work in action.

Led by our Peatlands Engagement Officer, Roisin, the group explored areas where techniques implemented during the 1990s and early 2000s have helped restore and enhance valuable bog habitats. The visit encouraged knowledge sharing, discussion of best practice and strengthened collaboration between

partners supported through the Peatland Challenge Fund, NIEA and Shared Island initiatives.



Burren Bites 2026 Delivers a Memorable Food Trail Experience

Burren Bites 2026 was a tremendous success, with visitors from near and far gathering at the beautiful Cavan Burren Park for a truly unique food and heritage experience. Guests enjoyed a guided journey through the spectacular landscape, discovering the geological wonders and rich stories of the Geopark while savouring a specially curated six-course tasting menu created using the finest local produce.

The event offered the perfect blend of food, culture and nature, allowing participants to connect with the landscape through its flavours, history and traditions. Despite less-than-ideal weather conditions, spirits remained high throughout the day, with attendees embracing the experience and enjoying the warm atmosphere.



A sincere thank you goes to our dedicated Geopark Ambassadors, talented local producers, event partners, Blacklion Tidy Towns and everyone who took part in making the day such a success.

Save the Date! Our next foodie event will take place on Saturday 3 October 2026, at the Marble Arch Caves. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more details coming soon.

What's On

St. Brigid's Cursing/Blessing Bullaun Stones Tour (part of National Heritage Week)

Sunday 16 August: 11am-12.30pm & 1pm-2.30pm

Meet at Lough MacNea Amenity Area

Step into local legend with Geopark Ambassadors, Bee and Dani as they guide you to a unique heritage site. Now in its third year as part of Heritage Week, this special walk and talk explores the fascinating folklore of St. Brigid and the stories behind these remarkable glacial erratics.



St. Brigid's Cursing/Blessing
Bullaun Stones Tour

Belturbet Mammoth and Ice Age Landscape (part of National Heritage Week)

Friday 21 August: 6.30pm

Belturbet Civic Centre

Join Geopark Ambassador, Zaneta, for this unique event which features storytelling for all ages, combined with formal geological insights from expert Geopark staff on the Belturbet Mammoth and Ice Age landscape.

25 Years A Geopark

Saturday 24 October – Saturday 14 November

Save the date for a full programme of a variety of events across Fermanagh and Cavan to celebrate 25 years as a Geopark. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more details coming soon.

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