

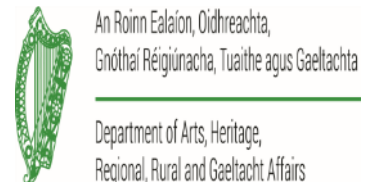
# Agri Benchmark Global Forum 2018

**Galway Bay Hotel, Monday June 18<sup>th</sup> 2018**

***Trade, marketing, competitiveness, sustainability and productivity***

**2.15-2.45pm Dr. Brendan Dunford, Manager, Burren Programme**

***Sustaining a community and their place: a story from the Burren region, Ireland***



# Sustaining a community and their place (*or trying to!*)



**Burren**  
**PROGRAMME**



'The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development: Europe  
investing in rural areas'.



Department of  
**Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine**  
An Roinn  
**Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara**



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



## **Burren – Bhoireann – Land of Stone**

**Ludlow (1651)** *‘not water enough to drown a man, wood enough to hang one, nor earth enough to bury them ... and yet their cattle are very fat’*

**Dineley (1681)** *‘it consists of one entire rock with here and there a little surface of earth, which raises earlier beef and mutton, though they allow no hay, than any land in this kingdom’*





**Lord Willies (1761)** *‘The sheep graze there all winter without any fodder ... near double the tallow of a sheep of the same size fed upon rich pasture’*

**Dutton (1808):** *‘it is the custom of many graziers ... to permit the grass to remain for feeding store cattle or sheep in winter, and frequently for the purpose of turning in cattle until their fattening round is ready, which in backward springs is of great value ... very high prices are often paid ...’*

## WINTERAGE

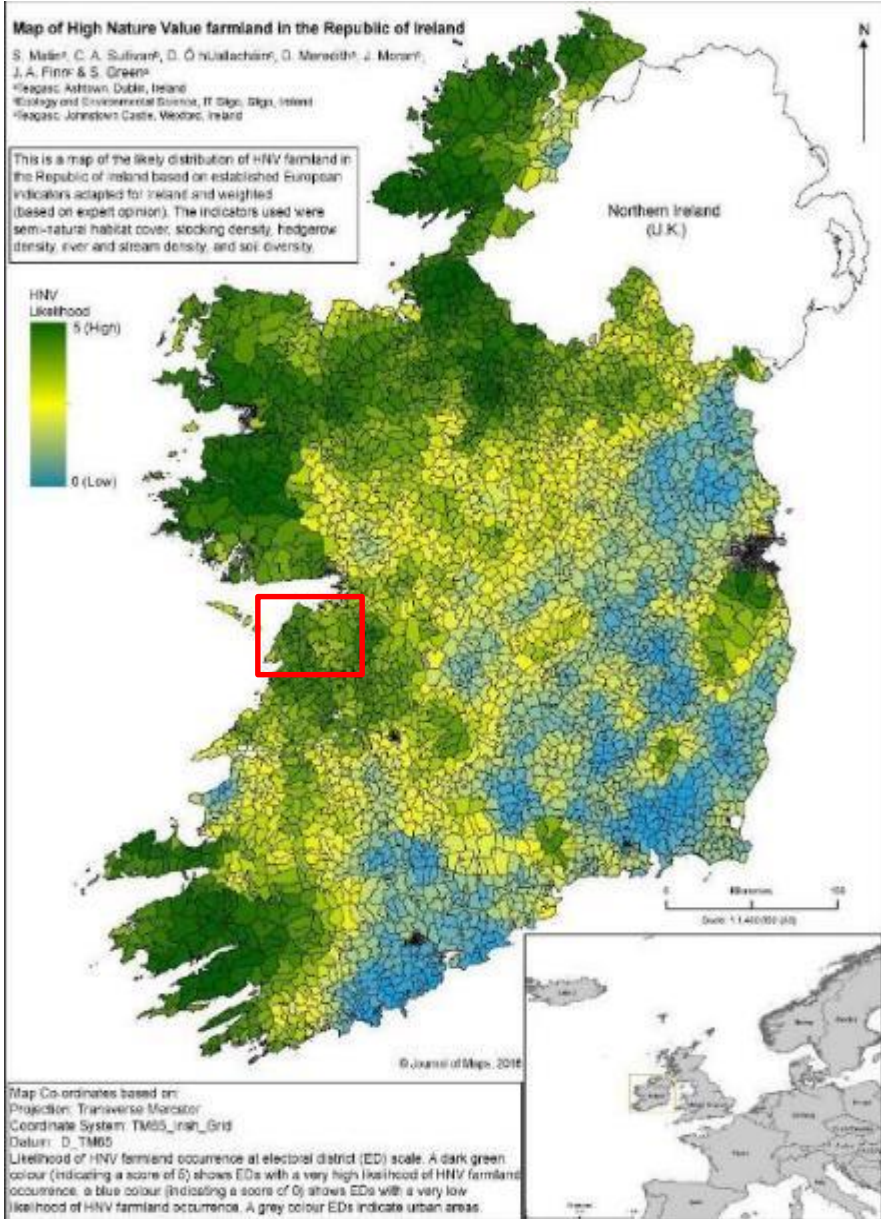




# The Burren: A 'High Nature Value' Area



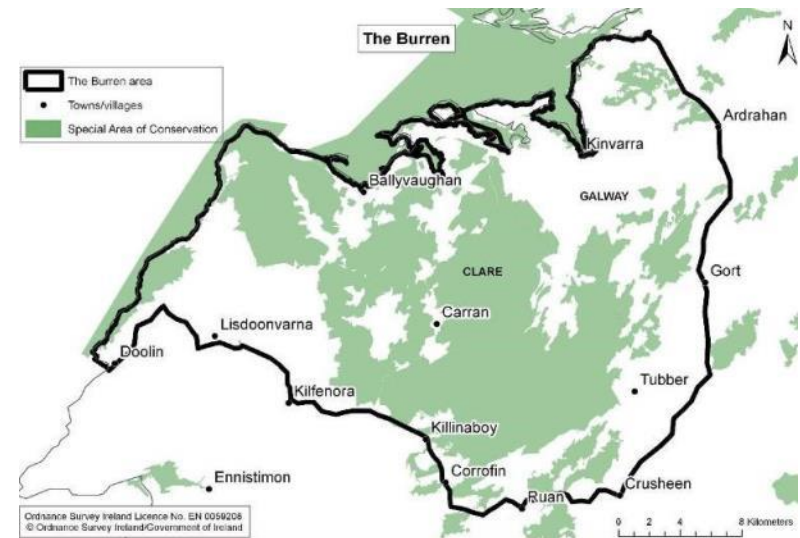




## The Burren – some fast facts:

- Roughly 72,000ha, c.30,000ha of which is SAC (Natura 2000)
- Roughly 1,000 farm families, c. 400 with significant area of Burren SAC land
- Predominant farming system is continental-cross bred Suckler beef (30-40 head avg)

## A ‘conserved’ and ‘contested’ landscape: farming, tourism, heritage etc...

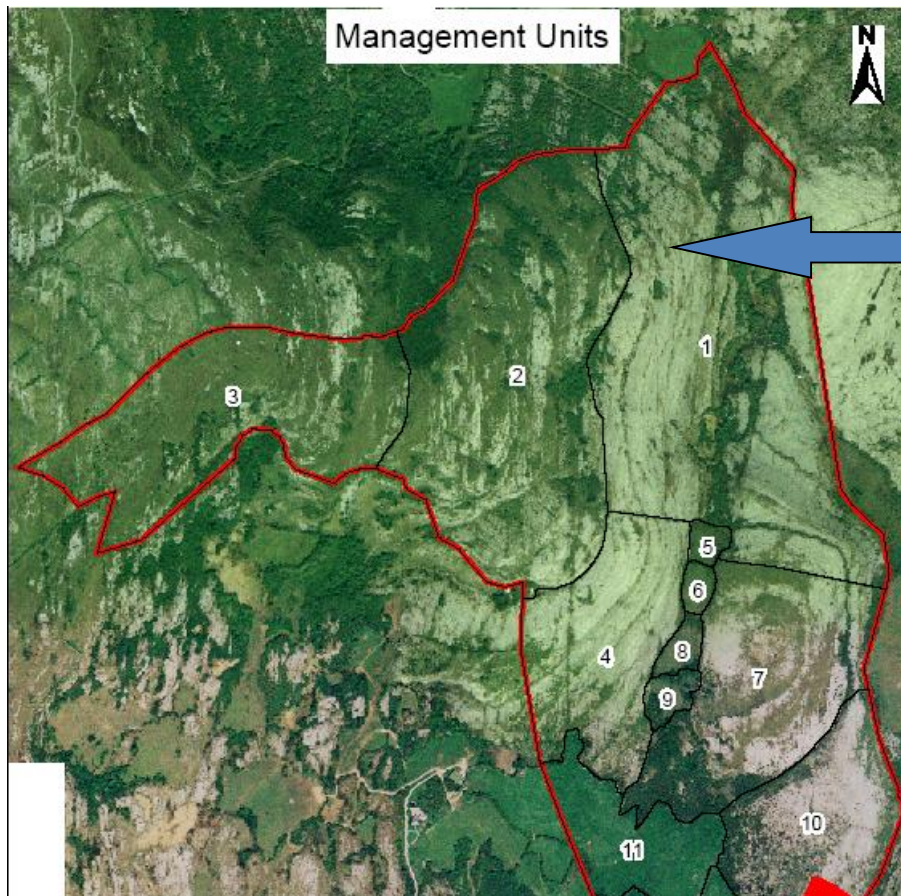


Distribution of areas of high **High Nature Value Farmland** (HNVf) potential in Ireland (green areas indicate HNVf) (Matin et al 2016).





# Polarisation of agricultural activity within farms- and across region



**Upland to lowland shift**



Changes in farming = impact on Burren habitats, for example:







Also a 'High Cultural Value' Area (Tentative World Heritage Site)





**Burren's 'values' threatened by both over-intensification and under-utilisation**

**National Agri-Env't Schemes/Designations not enough to tackle these issues.**

**Bespoke, farmer-centered solution for the Burren needed**





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**National Agri-Env't Schemes/Designations not enough to tackle these issues.**

**Bespoke, farmer-centered solution for the Burren needed**





# CHALLENGES FACING HNV FARMING IN THE BURREN

Poor economic  
outlook

Poor social  
structure

Land  
abandonment and  
intensification

Lack of integrated  
land use strategy

Over-regulation/  
Bureaucracy

Apathy



## Community Stewardship Model

Providing Burren farmers with targeted Financial, Technical and Social/Cultural support (*'pocket, head and heart'*)



## 1. Financial Support

### Two 'Interventions'

**I-1:**  
Payment  
for site  
condition

**I-2:**  
Payment  
for work  
done

**Management:** grazing , feed ...

**Works:** scrub, water, walls...

Two Annual Payments



## Intervention 1: Providing an incentive to better manage HNV farmland

A photograph of a dry, hilly landscape with sparse, yellowish-brown grass and scattered dark rocks. The terrain appears undergrazed.

**Undergrazed, no 'result' payment**

4/10

A photograph of a landscape where the ground is heavily trampled and dark, with many bare, dry sticks and some cows visible in the background, indicating overstocking.

**Overstocked, no 'result' payment**

0/10

5/10- 10/10

**Well managed, Bonus 'result' payment (60 - 180/ha)**





# A Farmer- friendly field scoring system

## II Score Sheet for Winterage-type Pastures

Burren Programme v1.1 June 2016

Farm: \_\_\_\_\_ Field: \_\_\_\_\_ Surveyor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grazing Practice (circle as appropriate)					Feeding Management (circle as appropriate)	
Winter Only	Winter & Light Summer	Year Round	Other	Silage/hay: Not fed or Some fed loose, scattered Fed as: Round bales (ring feeder or not) or In/on Trailer	Concentrates: *where known Not Fed* or Fed in trough(s) or Fed on ground*	

### SCORING (circle appropriate value)

A1. What is the grazing level?										Comments
Negligible	Below optimum			Optimum		Above optimum		V. High		
-35	-25	-5	0	9	15	8	-6	-36		

A2. What is the litter level? (% cover)				
Low <10%	10-25%	>25-50%	>50-75%	High >75%
20	14	8	2	0

A3. Is there damage around feed sites and/or water troughs?				
Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High
15	11	7	2	-7

A4. Is there damage around natural water sources? (Note if no natural water present)				
Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High
15	11	7	2	-7

A5. Is there bare soil and erosion?				
Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High
5	1	-3	-10	-17

B1. What is the level of immature, removable scrub? (% cover) Use N* in brackets if seedlings commonly seen or cover is borderline				
<2%	3 - 5%	6 - 10%	11 - 25%	>26%
15 (13)	9 (7)	3 (1)	-7 (-9)	-18

B2. What is the impact of / threat from, Bracken?				
Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High
5	1	-3	-10	-17

B3. What is the impact of / threat from, Purple Moor-grass (Molinia)?				
Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High
5	1	-3	-10	-17

B4. What is the extent of "weeds" &/or agriculturally-favoured species present due to management practices?				
Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High
10	6	2	-3	-12

C1. Does the field retain its ecological integrity (in terms of plant communities present)?				
Vegetation Typical	Yes, slightly modified	Yes, moderately modified	Yes, significantly modified	
5	0	-6	-17	-28

Have any of the habitats or archaeology present been damaged by unauthorised or careless activities during past year?  
 Note type & extent of damage and contact Burren Team asap for advice on whether and how to adjust the field score.

Comments (e.g. actions needed & priority, quality of work done, habitat type and pasture strength):

Farm: \_\_\_\_\_

### Comments/Actions needed/Damaging activities

Huge site, most of which is north facing slope. Lower areas sesleria do grasslands and drier sections of middling sesleria grassland. No scrub - s be of benefit. Grazing needs to improve on upper areas, definitely need As grazing has improved so much this past winter (with no feed) a low bracken and Molinia problem also, so grazing really needs to be sustain

Grazing: Winter & light summer

Enter criterion scores using drop down

	2017	2018	2019	
A1 Grazing level	0	9	Enter Score	E
A2 Litter level	14	14	Enter Score	E
A3 Feed site & water troughs	15	15	Enter Score	E
Natural water sources	11	11	Enter Score	E
A5 Bare soil/erosion	5	5	Enter Score	E
B1 Scrub	15	15	Enter Score	E
B2 Bracken	5	5	Enter Score	E
B3 PMG	1	1	Enter Score	E
B4 Weeds/agric-favoured	10	10	Enter Score	E
C1 Ecological integrity	5	5	Enter Score	E
Field Total:	81	90	0	

Percentage Health Rating: 73.6 81.8 0.0

Field Score

8

9

0

[www.rbaps.eu](http://www.rbaps.eu)

Field score card (completed by Advisor)



# Simple, 1-page Annual 'Intervention 1' Score Sheet

## Payment for Results (I-1)

Maximum payment (if all fields score 10/10): €5,647.40

Field no.	Field name	Pasture type (e.g strength)	Grazing		Management recommendations	Digitised area (ha)	Assessable I-1 area (ha) (A)	Payment rate (€/ha) (see table below) (B)	BFCP 2015 score (0-10)	BP Year 1 score (0-10) = Baseline	Payment (€) (A x B)
			Winter	Late summer							
Meadows											
7	7th Field	Meadow-like*	Yes	Yes	Delay grazing until late summer (late July onwards) then graze out well while taking care to avoid poaching. Do not apply any fertilizer. Control weeds.	0.50 ha	0.34 ha	€0	3	3	€0.00
9	Pump Field	Meadow-like*	Yes	Yes	Delay grazing until late summer (July onwards) if possible, then graze out as well as ground conditions allow (avoid excessive poaching). Control scrub, especially along fringes of rocky outcrops. Control weeds and improve water supply to prevent damage at water points.	3.00 ha	2.10 ha	€168	7	7	€352.80
Winterage											
5	5th Field	Middling	Yes	Yes	Grazing system has improved, increasing field score. Graze well in late summer (August onwards) and early winter. Continue work to control encroaching scrub, as well as the high level of bracken and weeds found across the site.	3.40 ha	0.49 ha	€72	4	6	€35.28
6	6th Field	Strong	Yes	Yes	Reduce level of summer grazing - graze in late summer (August onwards) and early winter. Avoid poaching. Control weeds.	1.40 ha	1.07 ha	€72	5	6	€77.04
1	1st Field	Middling	Yes	Optional	Reasonably well grazed over winter, occasional light summer graze (August onwards) will help top-off stronger sections. Also, improve water facilities - this will help improve grazing and reduce pressure on water point. Treat regrowth from previous scrub work - failure to fully address regrowth has reduced score.	13.95 ha	11.16 ha	€84	8	7	€937.44
2	2nd Field	Middling	Yes	Optional	Graze out well in winter. A light, late summer graze (August onwards) will help top-off stronger growth. Requires better water facilities for livestock, continued scrub removal (and regrowth) work, weed control and wall repair.	10.65 ha	8.30 ha	€96	8	8	€796.80
4	4th Field	Middling	Yes	Yes	Increase grazing in winter and also graze the valley area in late summer (late July onwards). Control encroaching scrub (mainly low blackthorn), bracken and weeds (by entrance gate).	5.25 ha	4.85 ha	€96	8	8	€465.60
3	3rd Field	Middling	Yes	Optional	Graze out well in winter. A light, late summer graze (August onwards) will help top-off stronger growth. Fix water trough overflow, control encroaching scrub and also control patches of weeds and bracken.	7.20 ha	6.79 ha	€135	9	9	€916.65
Total:						45.35 ha	35.10 ha	Baseline average (by area):		7.68	

**Total I-1 Payment Due: €3,581.61**

Compiled by Advisor, checked by Local Team



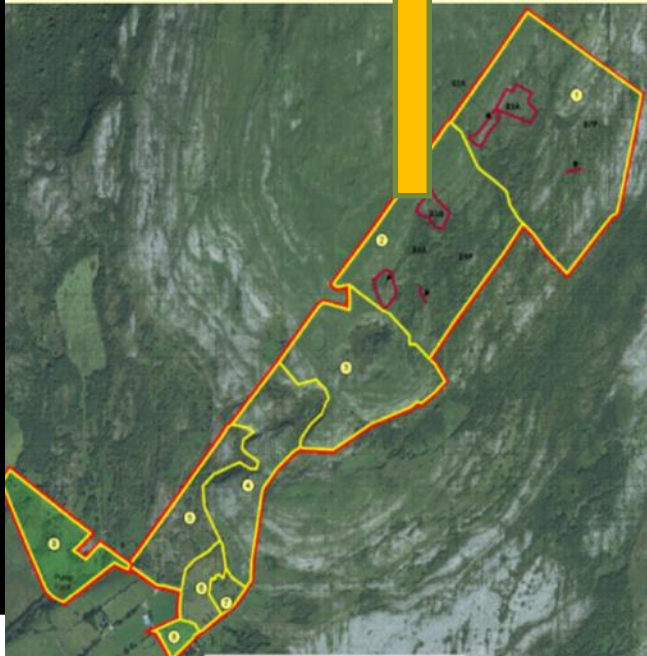
# Low scores? – Action needed! Farmer is allocated an allowance within which he/she can nominate (& co-fund) tasks to increase score

## Payment for Actions (M2)

Payments are subject to completion of actions planned, obtaining all necessary permissions and complying with any conditions attached

Maximum allowance €7,000.00

Field no(s).	Work	Length (m)	Area (ha)	No.	Work description	Funding rate (%)	Paid per unit (€)	€ Farmer receives	Agree to do?
					<p><i>For the following scrub tasks (S1A): Cut using chainsaws and immediately treat stumps with herbicide. Cut Jan-Feb or Sept-Dec (outside the bird nesting season). Costings include piling, treating, herbicide &amp; dye.</i></p> <p><i>When using herbicides: Roundup Biactive and Barclay Gallup Biograde are the only herbicides permitted by the NFWA. Make sure you read and follow the directions on the product label. The Basic Payment Scheme</i></p>				
9	Scrub control		0.0912		<p>Area S1A : Cut and treat all briars, blackthorn, hazel and other scrub within and around the enclosure, and along the wall with the mothair but leave the mature scrub marked on the map. <u>All cut scrub must be removed from the enclosure and either piled in a suitable location for rotting or removal by tractor to a place where it can be burned.</u> Labour estimate of 4 days for 2 people, which includes additional time to allow for removing scrub from enclosure.</p> <p>As this is in and around a Recorded Monument the work was notified to NMS and permission received on 16</p>	75%	n/a	909.72	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Stone wall repair	214			Green line labelled A-B on map. Repair the northern boundary wall to its original high standard using fallen and loose scattered stones. Do not take stones from other built structures.	50%	2.29	490.06	
2	Stone wall repair	245			Green line labelled C-D on map. Repair the northern boundary wall to its original high standard using fallen and	50%	2.29	561.05	



red stones. Do not take stones from other built structures.

labelled E-F on map. Repair internal wall to its original high standard using fallen and loose scattered stones. Do not take stones from other built structures.

(ferns) in lower part of field 9 and throughout field 9. Cut using chainsaws and immediately treat stumps with herbicide. Labour estimate of 10 days for 2 people.

(ferns). Cut in mid-June and again 6 weeks later using chainsaws and immediately treat stumps with herbicide. Labour estimate of 5 days for 1 person.

and hang a traditional, **Burren-style** gate at the location of the old gate. Labour estimate of 1 day for 1 person.

posts/stone piers and labour. Any loose rock should be removed from the area.

and install a 350 gallon plastic water trough at the location of the old trough. Labour estimate of 1 day for 1 person.

se ensure the trough sits on a solid level base (lime

Completed continues to be exceptional.









## Improved water 'harvesting'



## Increased water storage



New pumped supplies  
& delivery



**Improvements in water quality and more efficient usage**



# Improvements in access to sites





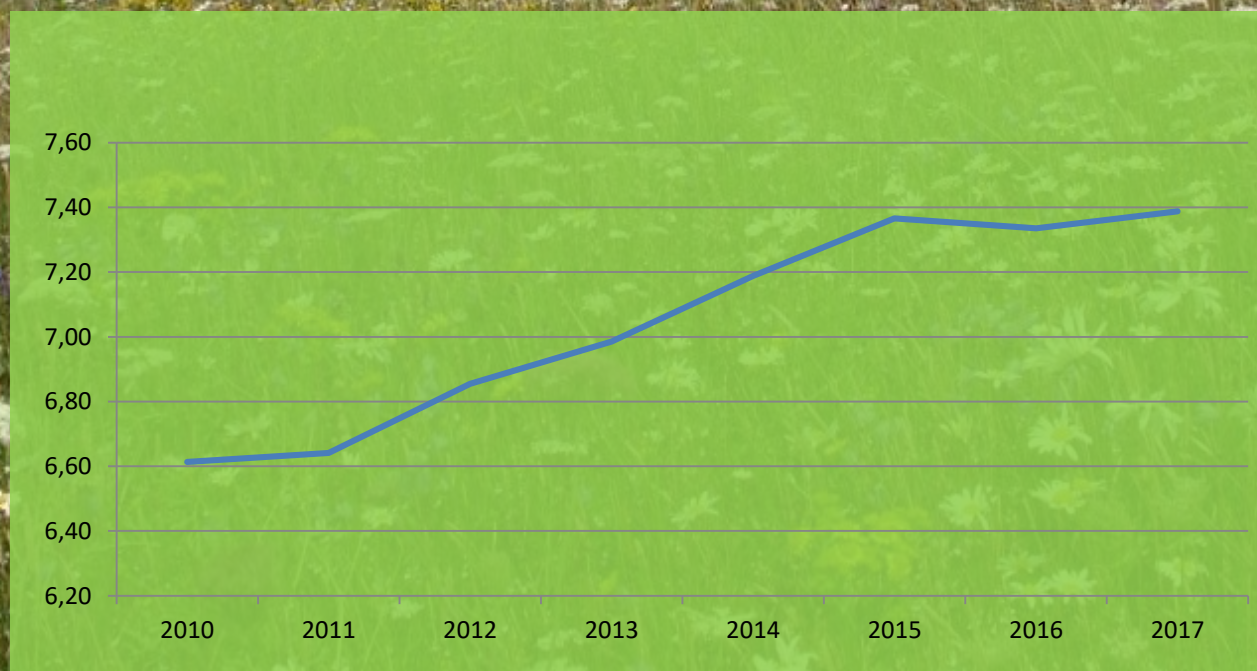
**+ restoring/increasing grazing**





# Potential Result (over time):

Score 10/10 €180/ha



Average I-1 score in 2017: 7.09

Average I-1 payment: €2,834 per farmer (10k max).



## 2. Technical Support

Farming for Conservation in the Burren

### A Guide to Feeding Cattle on Burren Winterages

BURRENLIFE BEST PRACTICE GUIDE No. 4





# Local Office, Tech support, Training Events





# Bespoke calculators

## Burren Programme Intervention 2 (I-2) Reference Costs 2018

Stone wall repair	Unit	Detail	Gross €	Allowance	Net €	Receipt
Wall repair	Per metre		4	75%		3 No
Drawing stone	Per hour	Tractor + trailer/box	25	50%		12.5 No
Access Tracks	Unit	Detail	Gross €	Allowance	Net €	Receipt
New Track	Per metre		16	25%		4 No
Unsurfaced Track - repair, dress	Per metre		8	25%		2 No
Surfaced track re-dressing	Per metre		4	25%		1 No
Additional exceptional costs may be eligible for funding on a case by case basis (e.g. Tirram cover)						
Gates	Unit	Detail	Gross €	Allowance	Net €	Receipt
Burren Gate & Posts	Per gate, all sizes	Incl. labour	500	75%		375 No
Burren gate - retrofit	Per retrofit		300	75%		225 No
Burren gate post - fit	Per retrofit		120	75%		90 No
Field Gate & RSJ Posts	Per gate, all sizes	Incl. labour	300	50%		150 No
Field gate - retrofit	Per retrofit		120	50%		60 No
Field post - retrofit	Per retrofit	Per post	100	50%		50 No
Post and Wire Fencing	Unit	Detail	Gross €	Allowance	Net €	Receipt
Fence - post & wire	Per metre	Incl. labour	2	50%		1 No
Fence - post & sheepwire	Per metre	Incl. labour	5	50%		2.5 No
Metal Stakes & Tape	Per metre	-	0.5	50%		0.25 Yes
Fencer Units	Unit	Detail	Gross €	Allowance	Net €	Receipt
Prices listed are guide price only - price paid will be based on receipt						
Solar fencer 12V	Per fencer	Hi-spec	500	50%		250 Yes
Solar fencer 12V	Per fencer	Average spec	250	50%		125 Yes
Electric fencer	Per fencer	Incl. Batte Hi-spec	160	50%		80 Yes
Electric fencer	Per fencer	Incl. Batte Average spec	100	50%		50 Yes
Water Equipment	Type	Size (gal)	Gross €	Allowance	Net €	Receipt
All water storage equipment costs incl. €50 installation cost to cover labour, substrate & fittings						
Plastic Drinking troughs	Circular	450 gal	650	50%		325 No
	Circular	350 gal	550	50%		275 No
	Circular	250 gal	400	50%		200 No
	Circular	180 gal	350	50%		175 No
	Rectangular	90 gal	180	50%		90 No

To calculate job costs:  
e.g. wall repair, water

Grazing: Winter & light summer

Feeding: Concentrates in trough (s)

Enter criterion scores using drop down menus						Enter any comments from field sheet	
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
Grazing level	9	9	9	Enter Score	Enter Score	Grazed out well over the winter, no summer grazing as of yet. There is light stocking all year round this year. There is a good level of vegetation and an abundance of flowers	
Litter level	20	20	20	Enter Score	Enter Score	very low	
Feed site & water troughs	15	15	15	Enter Score	Enter Score	No visible feed sites or troughs. Concentrates fed just outside the pen minor damage	
Natural water sources	7	7	7	Enter Score	Enter Score	yes two natural water sources, medium damage	
Bare soil/erosion	5	5	5	Enter Score	Enter Score	Just around feed site and along regular stock paths	
Scrub	3	3	3	Enter Score	Enter Score	Scattered mainly on the lower section, easily dealt with, probably over 6%.	
Bracken	5	5	5	Enter Score	Enter Score	scattered not a problem	
PMG	5	5	5	Enter Score	Enter Score		
Weeds/agric-favoured	10	10	10	Enter Score	Enter Score		
Ecological integrity	5	5	5	Enter Score	Enter Score	only around shelter walls & inside gate, weeds do not extend	
Field Total:	84	84	84	0	0		
Percentage Health Rating:	76.4	76.4	76.4	0.0	0.0		
Field Score	8	8	8	0	0		

## To calculate field score

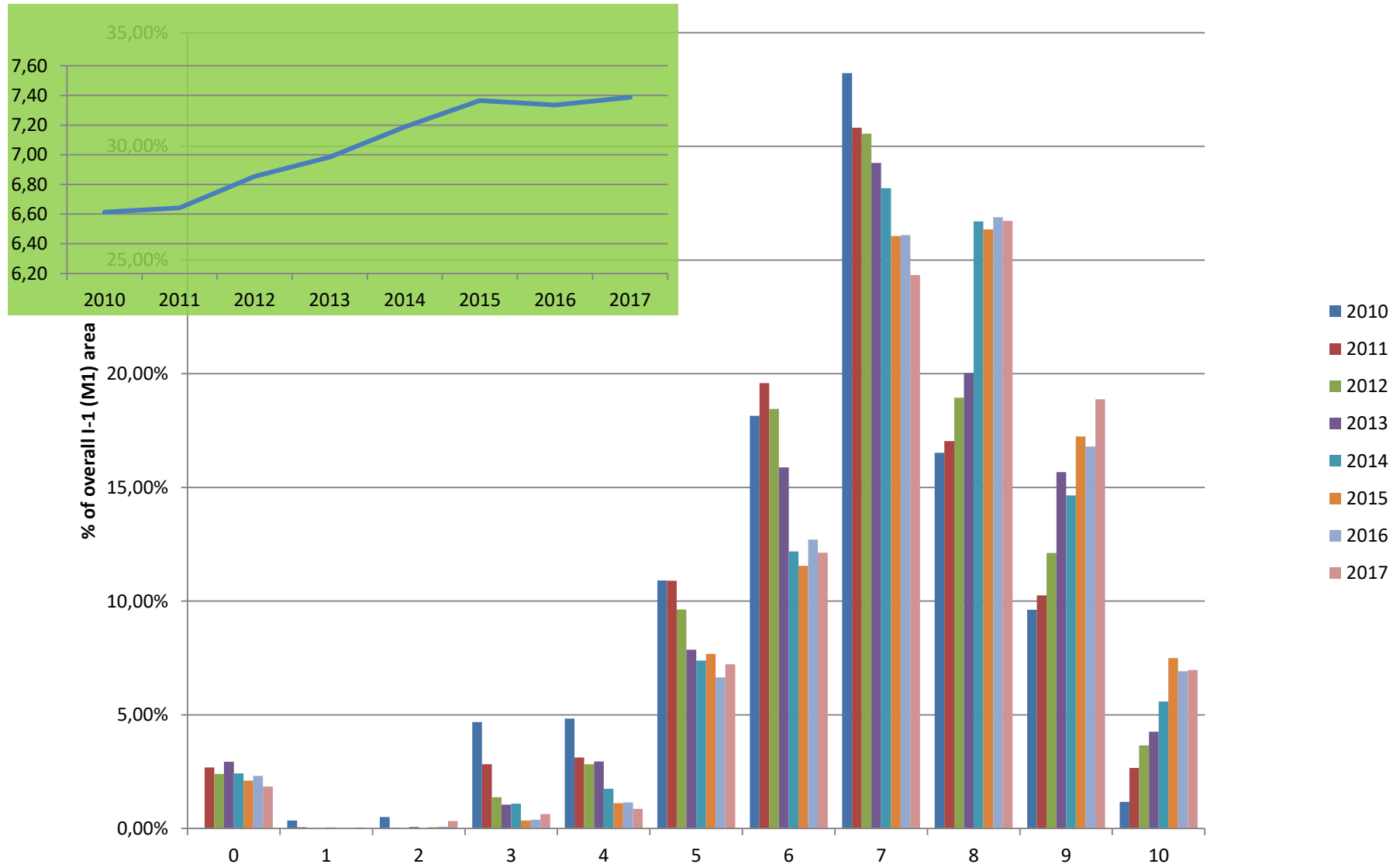
Field No.	Path ID (e.g. SP1)	Path Length (m)	Path Width (m)	Area (hectare)	Estimated % Scrub Cover	Area of scrub to be Removed (ha)	Method (drop down menu)	Cost/ha for method	Cost of Job	BP funding @ 75%	Indicative Area per Day	Approx. Time for Job (days)+	Approx. Time for Job (hrs)
1a	SP1	82.0	3.0	0.0246	80	0.0197	Chainsaw. Incl. stump treatment	€15,434	€303.74	€227.81	0.0230	0.9	6.85
1a	SP2	51.0	4.0	0.0204	33	0.0067	Chainsaw. Incl. stump treatment	€15,434	€103.90	€77.93	0.0230	0.3	2.34
1a	SP3	143.0	3.0	0.0429	50	0.0215	Chainsaw. Incl. stump treatment	€15,434	€331.06	€248.29	0.0230	0.9	7.46
1a	SP4	144.0	4.0	0.0576	40	0.0230	Chainsaw. Incl. stump treatment	€15,434	€355.60	€266.70	0.0230	1.0	8.01
1a	SP5	76	4	0.0304	20	0.0061	Chainsaw. Incl. stump treatment	€15,434	€93.84	€70.38	0.0230	0.3	2.11
1a	SP6	111	4	0.0444	50	0.0222	Chainsaw. Incl. stump treatment	€15,434	€342.63	€256.98	0.0230	1.0	7.72
1a	SP7	30	4	0.0120	30	0.0036	Chainsaw. Incl. stump treatment	€15,434	€55.56	€41.67	0.0230	0.2	1.25
2	SP8	81	3	0.0243	33	0.0080	Chainsaw. Incl. stump treatment	€15,434	€123.77	€92.82	0.0230	0.3	2.79
1a	SP9	71	2	0.0142	40	0.0057	Chainsaw. Incl. stump treatment	€15,434	€87.67	€65.75	0.0230	0.2	1.98
1a	SP10	117	4	0.0468	20	0.0094	Chainsaw. Cut only.	€12,069	€112.97	€84.72	0.0290	0.3	2.58
1a	SP11	118	4	0.0472	20	0.0094	Chainsaw. Cut only.	€12,069	€113.93	€85.45	0.0290	0.3	2.60
1a	SP12	74	4	0.0296	30	0.0089	Chainsaw. Cut only.	€12,069	€107.17	€80.38	0.0290	0.3	2.45

## To calculate cost of scrub removal



# Impact Monitoring

Gradual Shift to higher scores (7-10)



Percentage of I-1 (M1) area per I-1 (M1) Score, 2010 – 2017 (147 farms, c.7,000ha)



# 3. Social/Cultural Support

'... the majority of local people **have not taken ownership of their own heritage...**is once more imposed 'from above' and 'from outside (O'Rourke, 2001).

DONATE

burren**beo**trust  
connecting people and place



THE BURREN   THE TRUST   OUR WORK   SUPPORT US   LATEST

## Place-based Learning Summer Courses

2 July 2018 - 6 July 2018

*Tools and skills for learning and  
teaching about local places*

**DES approved 5 day course**

Burrenbeo Trust Centre

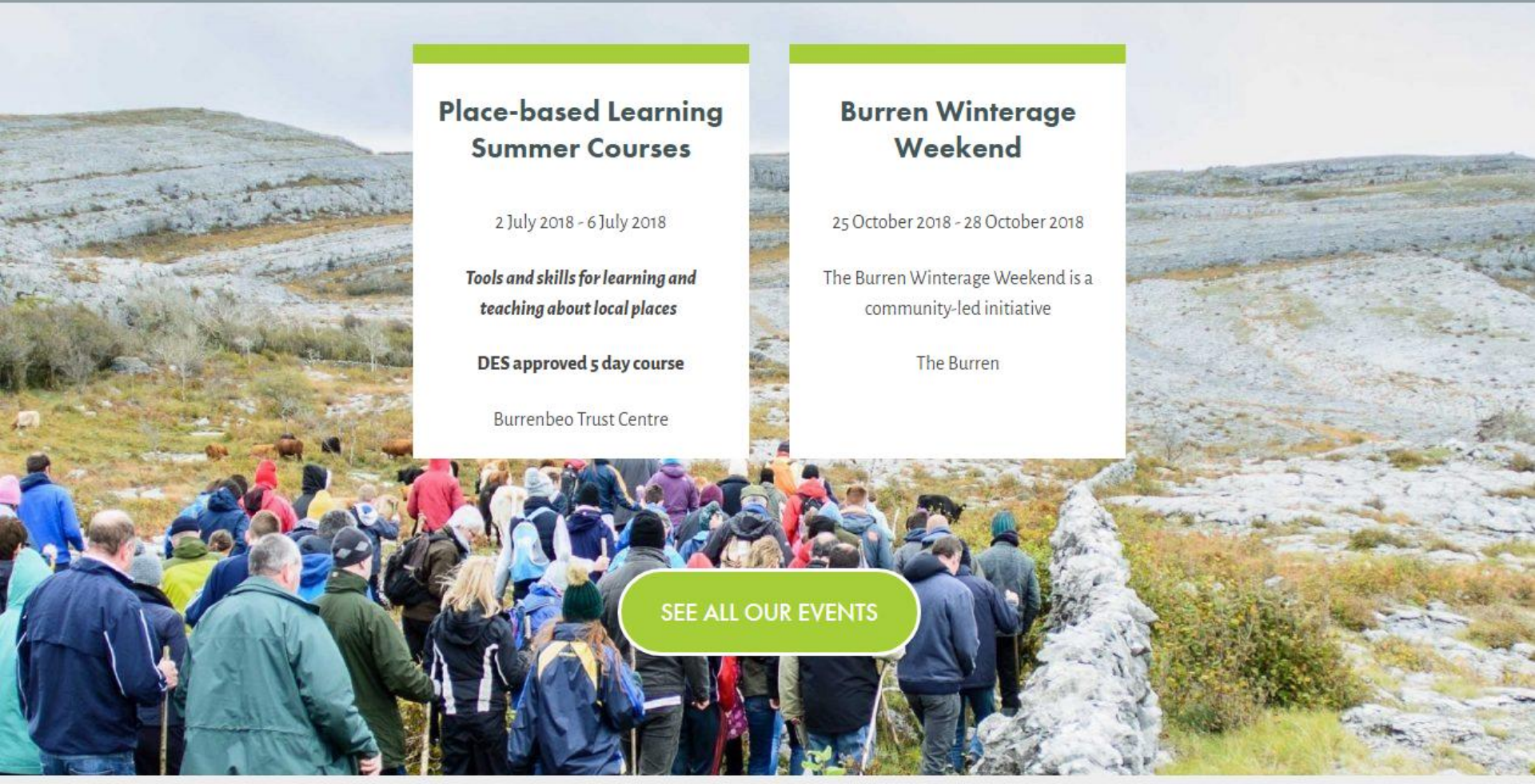
## Burren Winterage Weekend

25 October 2018 - 28 October 2018

The Burren Winterage Weekend is a  
community-led initiative

The Burren

SEE ALL OUR EVENTS





# Community learning initiatives



Burrenbeo – connecting people with their places and their role in caring for them



# Community wellbeing initiatives

**burren**beo**trust**  
connecting people and place



**change** X



# Acknowledging high nature value farming and farmers

**Bord Bia**  
Irish Food Board







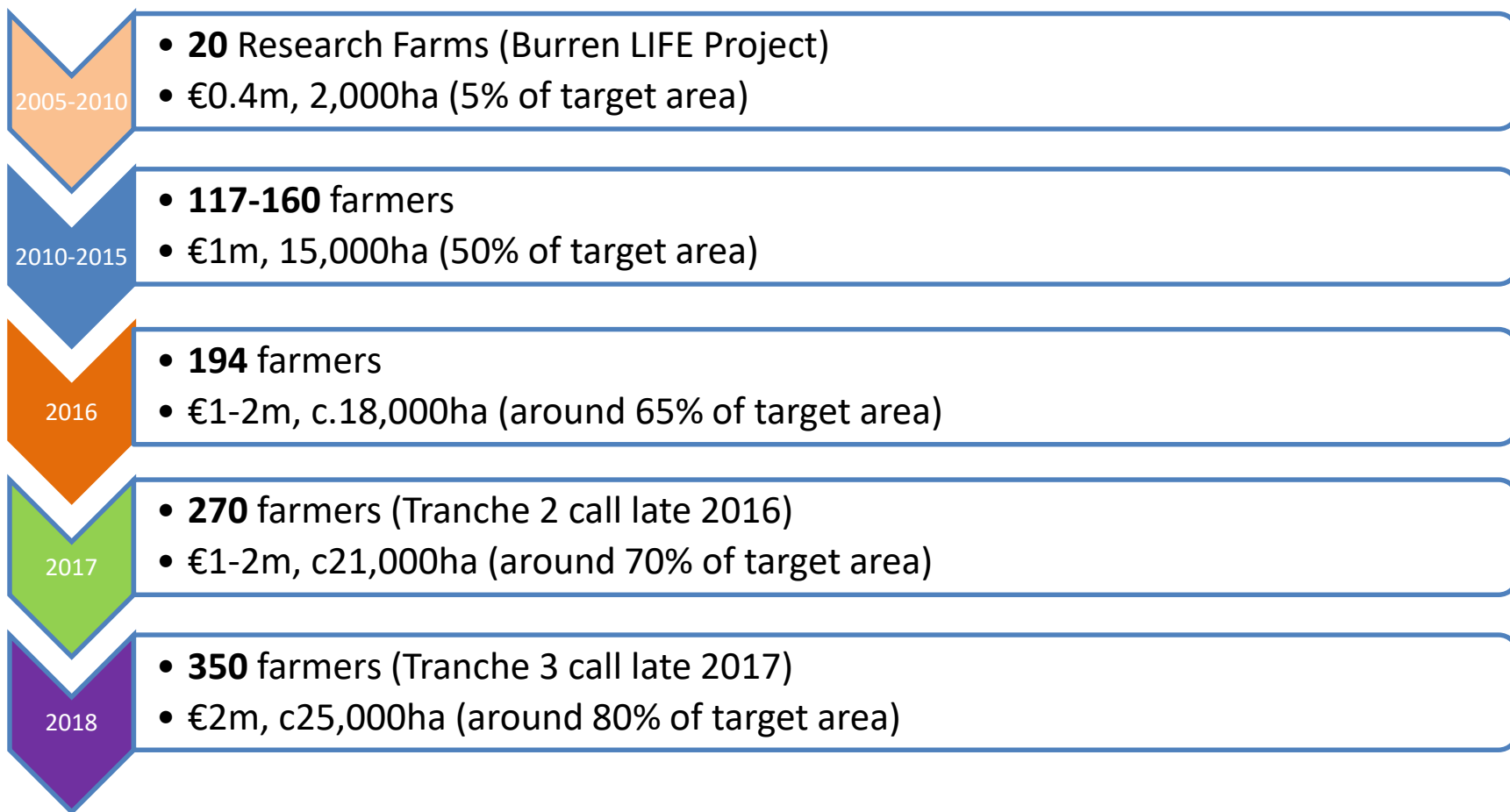
## A Vision for Sustainable Farming in the Burren

*The Burren will be an increasingly attractive place to live and farm, a place where farm families enjoy the support and respect of society to produce quality food and deliver valued services, thereby sustaining the Burren's rich heritage for the benefit of all.*





# Burren PROGRAMME



Tranche of new 'Locally led' projects funded through European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs)



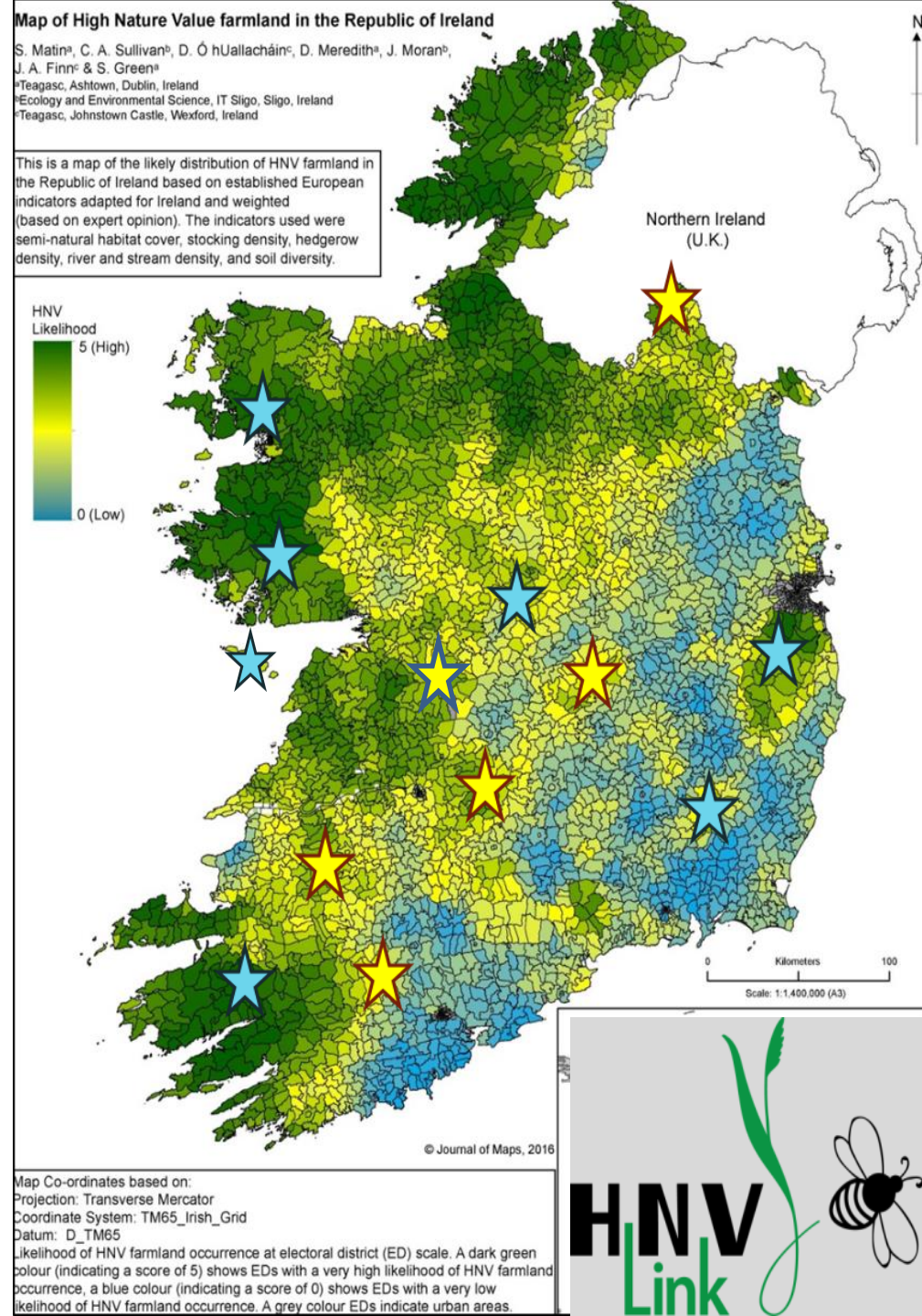
# Locally led approaches



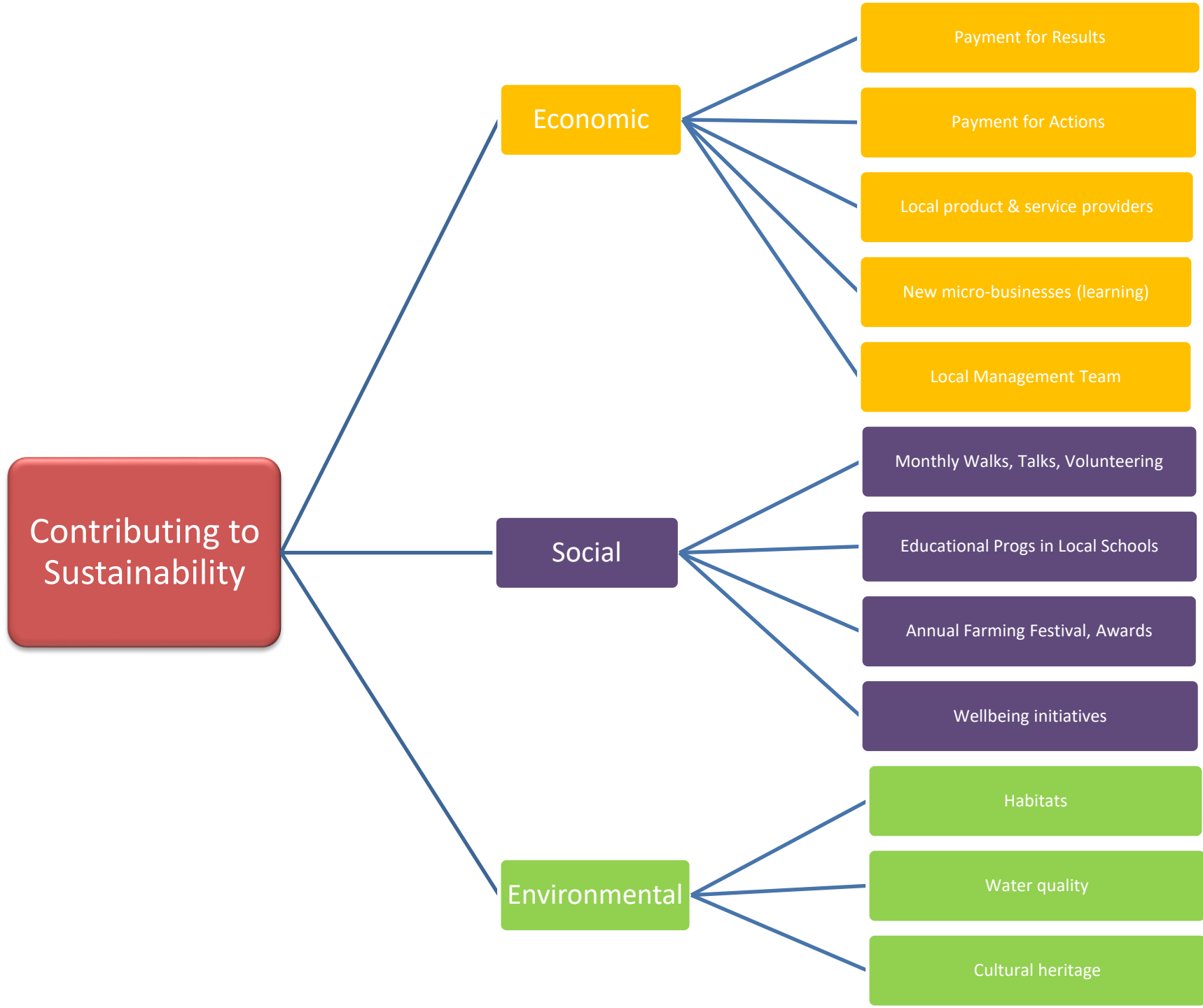
EIP Hen Harrier: European Innovation Partnership locally led project for Hen Harrier Special Protection Areas



EIP-Open Call: European Innovation partnership operational groups with specific objectives for HNV











Sustaining a people and their place – finding new ways of working together  
[www.burrenprogramme.com](http://www.burrenprogramme.com) [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com)