

# The Burren Region (Ireland)

- On-the –spot visit 11 to 14 July 2017
- Michael B Usher accompanied by Marc Hory
- Irish participants: Andy Bleasdale, Brendan Dunford and Sharon Parr, and many others
- Public meeting on 13 July with Michael Creed (Minister for Agriculture) and about 200 other people

# The European Interest

## The karst landscape

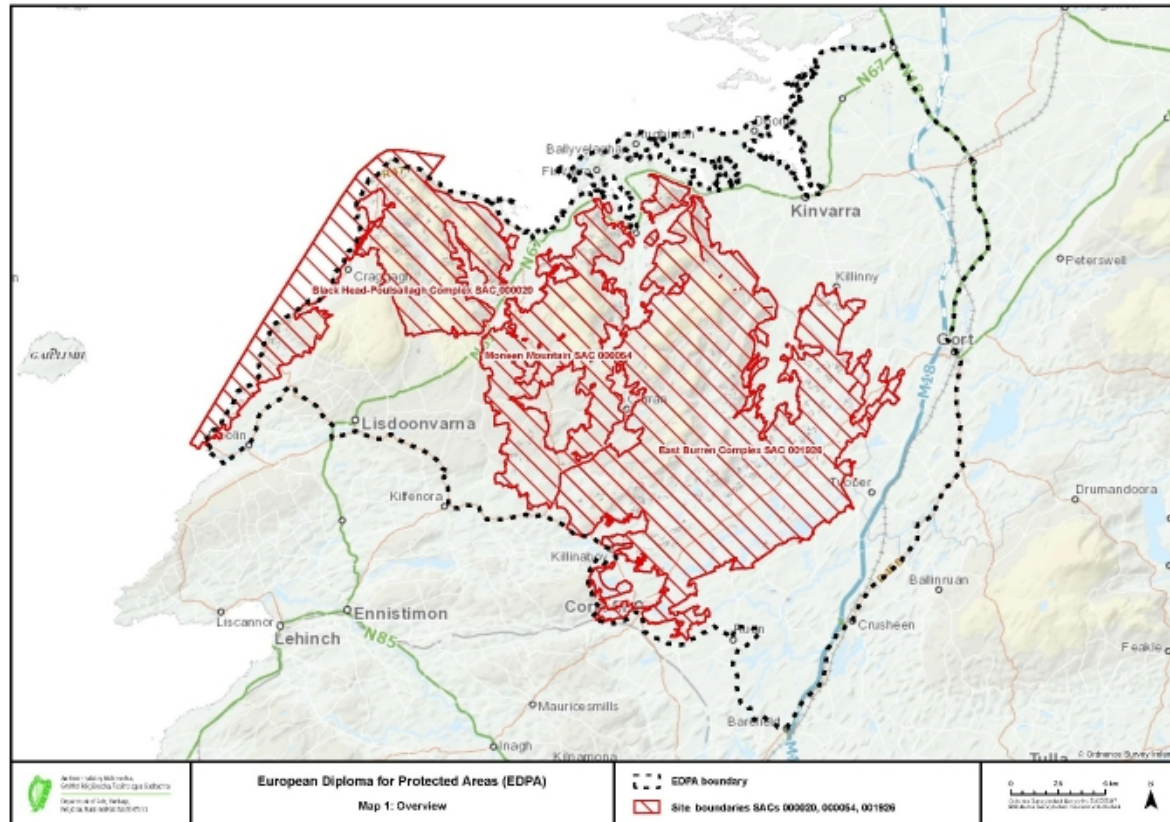


# The European Interest

Mediterranean and boreal flora and fauna



# Protection Measures



# Award of the EDPA in 2013

The award was made on the basis of 2 conditions and 6 recommendations (listed in annex 2 of the report).

2 Conditions: developing the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme and preventing negative environmental impacts in surrounding areas – both conditions fulfilled.

6 Recommendations: there has been considerable progress with, or full implementation of, all of the recommendations.

# Conclusion

- My proposal to the Group of Specialists is:
- that The Burren Region EDPA be renewed for the period 2018 to 2027,
- that 1 condition be attached to the renewal, and
- that 5 recommendations also be attached to the renewal.

# 1 proposed condition

- The Irish authorities should ensure a budget from 2022 onwards for the development of a successor programme to the current Burren Programme.



## First of 5 proposed recommendations



- 1. To prepare an overarching management framework document for the Burren Region EDPS, outlining the various management initiatives and their inter-relationships.



## Recommendation 2

- 2. To aim both to increase the quality of the natural heritage and to prevent damage to the cultural heritage in those areas of the Burren Region not included within the three Special Areas of Conservation.



## Recommendations 3 and 4

- 3. To work with others, especially in relation to tourism predicated on the farm holdings, as well as the natural and cultural heritage, to support the community living and working in the Burren Region.
- 4. To consider the development of further walking trails throughout the Burren Region.



## Recommendation 5

- To ensure that the award of the European Diploma for Protected Areas is more visible



