

International Workshop

Incentives for Private Land Conservation

Fundaciun Biodiversidad, Madrid, Spain
November 5th 2018

**Pocket, head and heart: farming for
conservation in the Burren region, Ireland**

14.30 – 15.15 Brendan Dunford, Manager, Burren Programme



Pocket, head and heart: farming for conservation in the Burren region



Presentation outline:

The Burren

Biodiversity challenges

A locally-led response:

Pocket: Paying for results

Head: Providing technical support

Heart: Building ownership

Some Reflections



A story involving many people and a lot of learning, over a long time

The Burren – *Boireann* – Place of Stone – Fertile rock. 72,000ha in size.



Glaciated karst landscape – UNESCO Geopark

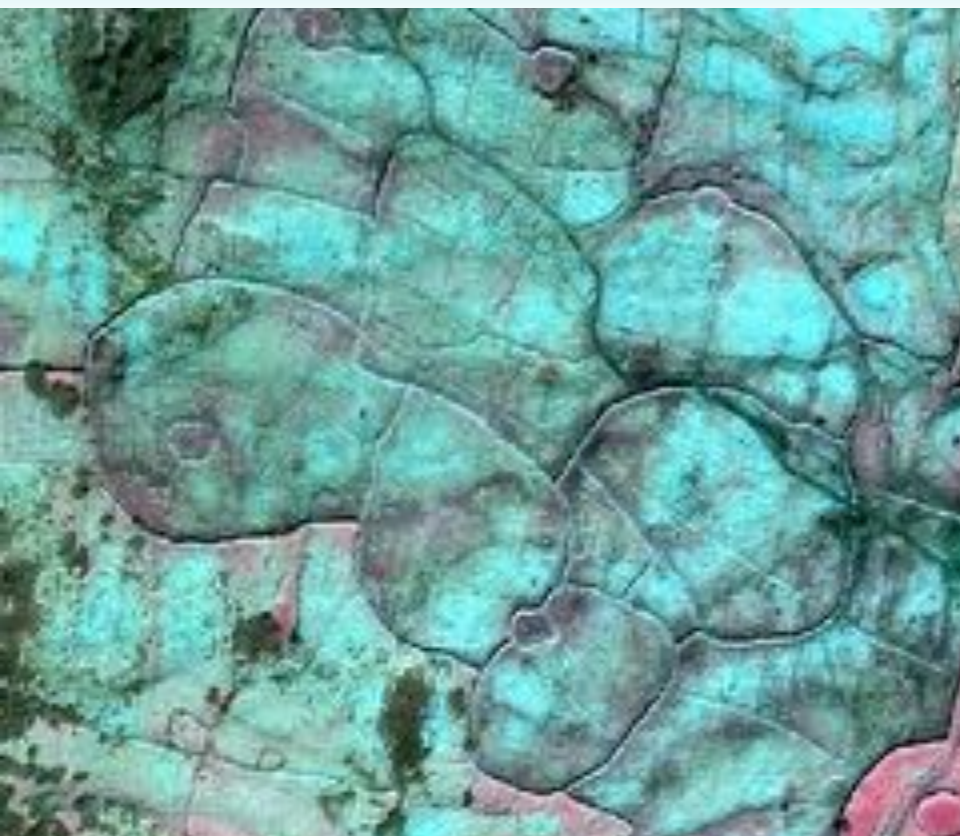
Ludlow (1651) *‘not water enough to drown a man, wood enough to hang one, nor earth enough to bury them ... and yet their cattle are very fat’*



High Nature Value: 70% of Ireland's native flora, 30,000ha designated SAC (mostly Priority Habs)



A 'Cultural Landscape' (Tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site)



A farmed landscape - with some interesting traditions:...

Dutton (1808): *‘it is the custom of many graziers ... to permit the grass to remain for feeding store cattle or sheep in winter...’*

WINTERAGE



Winterage – reverse transhumance – an ancient adaptation to farming limits of the land.
And a key driver of Burren's biodiversity.



Farming and the Burren Research Project (1998-2001) – Teagasc funded.



Farming critical for sustaining Burren biodiversity ... but...

Ageing Farming population

1,561 people in the Burren identified themselves as farmers in 2010, a (surprisingly) small decrease from the 1991 figure. The main change from 1991 would appear to be the increasing age profile of Burren farmers with a substantial loss of younger farmers (under 44) to the older cohorts, but very low levels of young farmer recruitment. This mirrors the National trend of an ageing farmer population. Turnover of land is very low in the Burren, and it is common for those inheriting land to retain the land while either farming it as a part-time occupation or renting it to other farmers. Increasingly, Burren farmers are working part- or full-time off the farm, further reducing the labour available.

Farmer age	Burren					Ireland				
	1991		2010		% Change since 1991	1991		2010		% Change since 1991
	No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%	
under 35	237	14.7	106	6.8	-55.3	21504	13.3	8658	6.2	-59.7
35 to 44	360	22.3	279	17.9	-22.5	32247	20.0	24480	17.6	-24.1
45 to 54	323	20.0	378	24.2	17.0	35312	21.8	34500	24.8	-2.3
55 to 64	333	20.7	410	26.3	23.1	36077	22.3	34946	25.1	-3.1
65 and over	359	22.3	388	24.9	8.1	36479	22.6	36510	26.2	0.1
Total no of farmers	1612		1561		-3.2	161619		139094		-13.9



Source: HNV LINK Project

An evolving relationship between people and place

Consolidation of farms

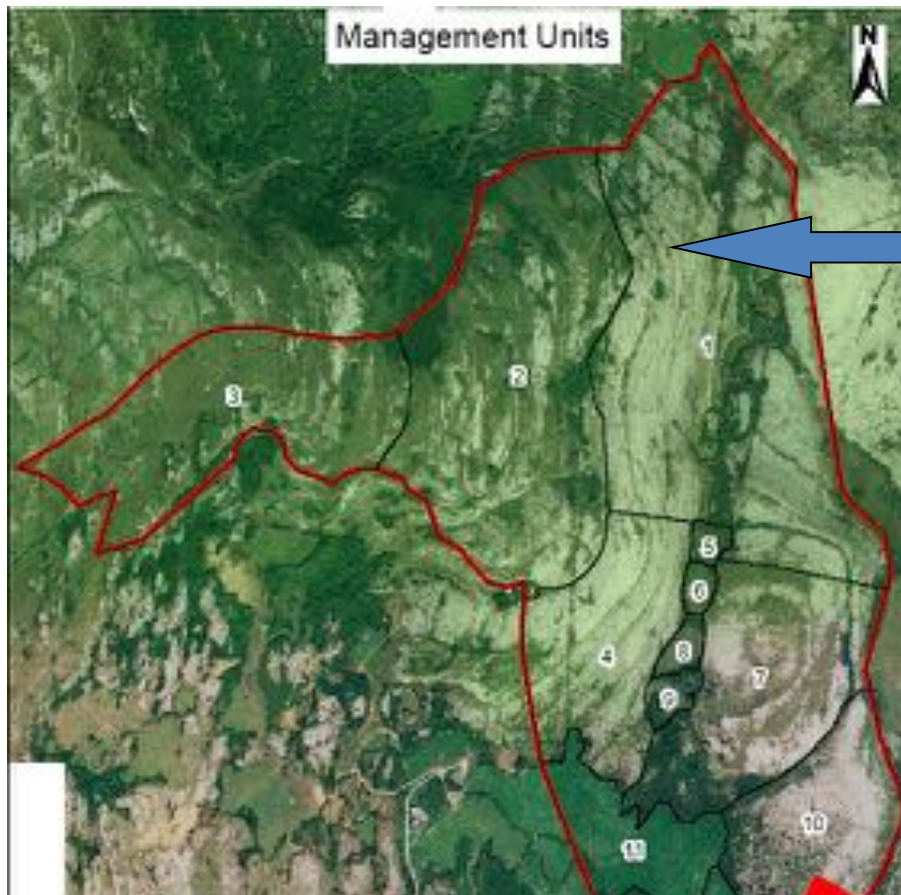
The average farm size owned in the region estimated to be 39.39 ha (32.5ha Nationally). In the last twenty years the number of small farms (up to 30 ha) has steadily decreased as these are consolidated to form larger units. Similar trends can be seen nationally. The Burren has a higher percentage of larger farms than the National average – this is a reflection on the low productivity levels of Burren holdings where large holdings are often required for relatively low stock numbers.

	Burren					Ireland				
	1991		2010		% Change since 1991	1991		2010		% Change since 1991
	No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	No.	%	
<10 ha	247	15.3	172	11.1	-30.4	43128	25.4	25337	18.2	-41.3
10-20ha	451	28.0	294	19.1	-34.8	48228	28.4	33481	24.0	-30.6
20-30ha	373	23.1	289	18.7	-22.5	30964	18.2	24618	17.7	-20.5
30-50ha	306	19.0	431	27.9	40.8	28406	16.7	30595	21.9	7.7
50-100ha	176	10.9	269	17.4	52.8	15532	9.1	20695	14.8	33.2
>100ha	60	3.7	88	5.7	46.7	3844	2.3	4663	3.3	21.3



Source: HNV LINK Project

Polarisation of agricultural activity within farms- and across region



Upland to lowland shift



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



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

National AES's/Designations important, but not enough to tackle these issues.

Bespoke approach 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 and
Antipathy



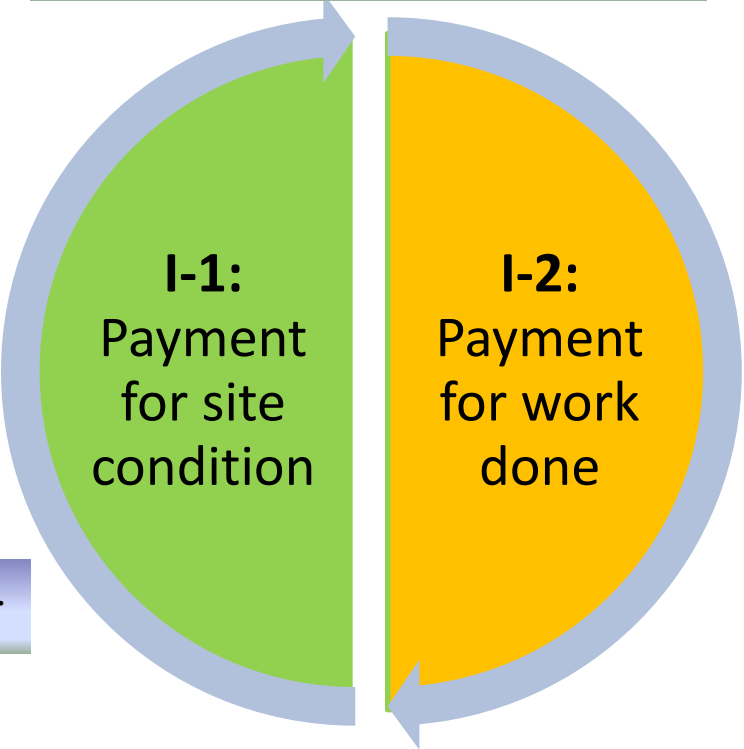
Our approach? A Community Stewardship Model

Providing Burren farmers with targeted Financial, Technical and Social/Cultural support (*'pocket, head and heart'*) to lead in the care of their own place

The Pocket: Paying for results!



Two 'Interventions'

A circular diagram divided into two equal halves. The left half is green and contains the text "I-1: Payment for site condition". The right half is yellow and contains the text "I-2: Payment for work done". A grey arrow on the left points upwards, and a grey arrow on the right points downwards, indicating a cycle.

I-1:
Payment
for site
condition

I-2:
Payment
for work
done

A photograph showing three black and white cows grazing in a grassy field under a cloudy sky.

Management: grazing , feed ...



Works: scrub, water, walls...

Two Annual Payments

Intervention 1: Providing an incentive to better manage HNV farmland

A wide-angle photograph of a dry, hilly landscape with sparse, yellowish-brown grass and scattered dark rocks. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

Undergrazed, no 'result' payment

4/10

A photograph of a landscape where the vegetation is heavily trampled and appears dark and muddy in some areas. In the background, there are some structures and more hills under a grey sky.

Overstocked, no 'result' payment

0/10

5/10- 10/10

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



A Farmer- friendly field scoring system



Overgrazed in summer
Score down 1 point

Grazing good

11 Score Sheet for Wintertime Pastures

Burns Programme 1/1 June 2018

Form: _____ Field: _____ Surveyor: _____ Date: _____

Current Grazing Practice (circle or appropriate)

Winter Only	Winter & Light Summer	Year Round	Other
-------------	-----------------------	------------	-------

Feeding Management (circle or appropriate)

Sludge/ hay	Concentrates: "where known"
Not fed or Some fed loose, scattered	Not fed*
Fed on: Round bales (ring feeder or not) or In/for Trailer	or Fed in trough(s) or Fed on ground*

SCORING (circle appropriate value)

A1. What is the grazing level?

Very high	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
-55	-25	-5	0	15

Comments:

A2. What is the litter level? (in cover)

Low	Med-Low	Med	Med-High	High
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 invasive, removable scrub? (in cover) (Use 10 in bales if seedlings commonly seen or cover is border)

5	1 - 5%	5 - 10%	11 - 15%	16 - 20%
10	(12)	9	(7)	2

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)?

Very good	Yes, mostly	Yes, moderately	Yes, slightly	Very poor
10	6	2	-3	-12

Have any of the habitats or archaeology present been damaged by unauthorised or careless activities during past year?

Notes type & extent of damage and control Burns team keep for advice on whether and how to adjust the field score.

Comments (e.g. action needed & priority, quality of work done, topsoil type and pasture strength)

Form: _____

Comments/Notes/needed/Damaging activities

Huge site, most of which is north facing slope. Lower areas selenia do grasslands and drier sections of middling selenia 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
A2 Litter level	14	14	Enter Score
A3 Feed site & water troughs	15	15	Enter Score
A4 Natural water sources	11	11	Enter Score
A5 Bare soil/erosion	5	5	Enter Score
B1 Scrub	15	15	Enter Score
B2 Bracken	5	5	Enter Score
B3 PMG	1	1	Enter Score
B4 Weeds agric-favoured	10	10	Enter Score
C1 Ecological integrity	5	5	Enter Score
Field Total:	81	90	0
Percentage Health Rating:	73.6	81.8	0.0
Field Score	8	9	0

Field score card (completed by Advisor)

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

Payment for Results (p-r)

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

Field No.	Field name	Pasture type (in 2 strengths)	Grazing		Management recommendations	Original area (ha)	Assessable P-R area (ha) (A)	Payment rate (€/ha) (see table below) (B)	BP Year 1 score (0-10)	BP Year 1 score (0-10) - Baseline	Payment (€) (A x B)
			Winter	Late summer							
Meadows											
7	7th Field	Meadow (use*)	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	0.50 ha	€72	5	5	€36.00
9	9th Field	Meadow (use*)	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.	1.00 ha	1.00 ha	€156	7	7	€152.80
Wintings											
3	3th Field	Mudling	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.	1.40 ha	0.49 ha	€72	5	5	€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	5	€77.04
1	1st Field	Mudling	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.	11.35 ha	11.18 ha	€88	5	7	€897.44
2	2nd Field	Mudling	Yes	Optional	Graze out well in winter & 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.	11.65 ha	5.30 ha	€96	5	5	€508.80
4	4th Field	Mudling	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	5	5	€465.60
5	5th Field	Mudling	Yes	Optional	Graze out well in winter & 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.	7.30 ha	6.79 ha	€120	5	5	€814.80
Total						41.10 ha	35.10 ha	Baseline average (by area)		7.08	

Total P-R Payment Due: **€3,581.61**

Compiled by Advisor, checked by Local Team

Payment structure for environmental outputs(I-1)

Annual payment – All eligible fields assessed annually and rated/paid accordingly

Banded payments (40ha bands) with max payment of €180/ha

Progressive payments: 25% bonus for 9, 50% bonus for 10, no payment for <5

Impact focussed: lowest scoring fields listed first for payment (at highest payment band) to incentivise farmers to target lowest scoring fields (only effective if farm >40ha)

Additional income: From 2010-18, €5m paid to Burren farmers under results based measure, current average payment of €2,600 per farm (2018), c.1,800 fields assessed.

	Score						
	10	9	8	7	6	5	<5
0 – 40 ha	€180	€135	€96	€84	€72	€60*	€0
41-80 ha	€90	€68	€48	€42	€36	€30*	€0
81-120 ha	€45	€34	€24	€21	€18	€15*	€0
>121 ha	€23	€17	€12	€11	€9	€8*	€0

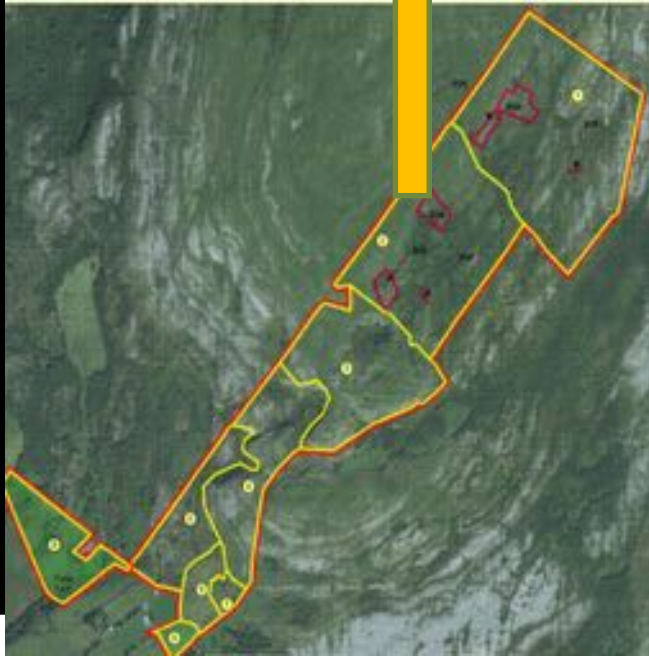
Low scores? – Action needed! Farmer is allocated an allowance within which he/she can nominate (& co-fund) tasks to increase score

Payment for Actions (M2)

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

Maximum allowance £7,500.00

Field no(s)	Work	Length (m)	Area (ha)	No.	Work description	Funding rate (%)	Paid per unit (£)	£ Farmer receives	Agree to do?
					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 & dye. When using herbicide: Roundup Biactive and Barley Gator Biograde are the only herbicides permitted.				
9	Scrub control		0.0912		Area S6A: Cut and treat all briars, blackthorn, hazel and other scrub within and around the enclosure, and along the wall with the mochar 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 rolling or removal by tractor to a place where it can be burned, or taken to a place where it can be used for fuel.</u> Labour estimate of 1 day for 1 person, which includes additional work to allow for removing scrub from enclosure. As this is in and around a Recorded Monument the work was notified to HMRS and permission received on 16/01/2020.	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	
21	Stone wall repair	248			Green line labelled C-D 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	561.85	



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.

(Items) in lower part of field 9 and throughout field 9. Use of a brush or bladed strimmer. Labour estimate of 10 days for 1 person.

(Items). Cut in mid-June and again 6 weeks later using a brush or bladed strimmer. Labour estimate of 5 days for 1 person.

and hang a traditional, Barren-style gate at the local level. Labour estimate of 1 day for 1 person.

and install a 300 gallon plastic water trough at the local level. Labour estimate of 1 day for 1 person.

se ensure the trough sits on a solid level base (lime or concrete).

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):

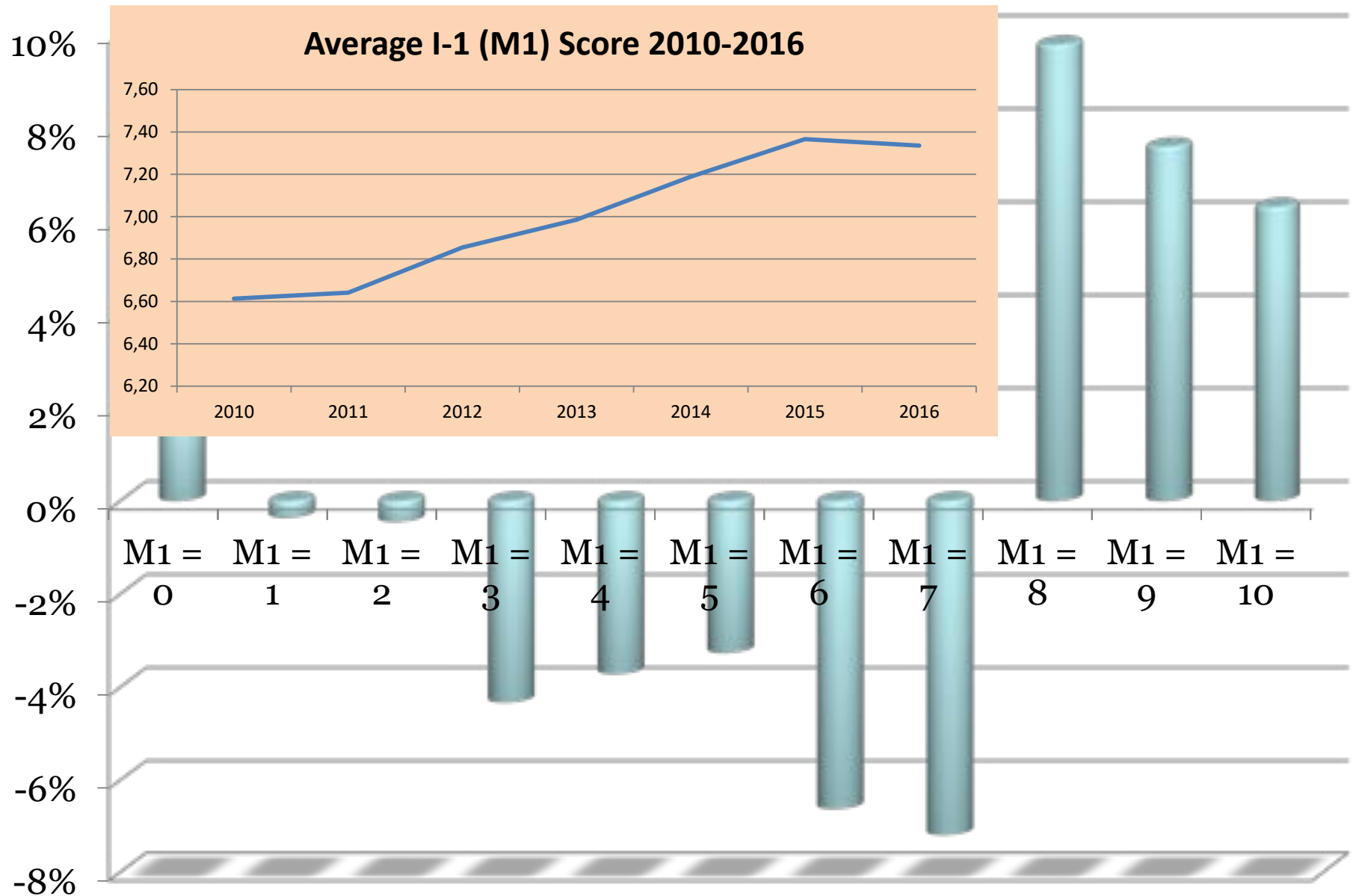
Score 10/10 €180/ha

An **additional**, not an alternative, product



Impact?

Change (in % area) in Field Scores between Year 6 (2016) and Year 1 (2010)



Payment structure for Conservation Actions (I-2)

Allowance based: €100/ha (of digitised SAC/Annex 1 habitat) p.a. Max € 7k p.a.

Farmer nominates jobs: Farmer and advisor discuss and plan works, BP team check

Individually priced: Every job is costed separately based on researched costs

Co-funded: Farmer contributes 25-75% of cost depending on Env'tl. value of job

Flexible: Farmer declares jobs ‘done’ and claims payment for these jobs only

Measure 2 Work Category	Total budget, Year 1- 6 (€)	% of Total M2 spend, Year 1-6
Scrub Removal	1,663,800	61.4%
Wall repair & fencing	420,681	15.5%
Water Provision	241,529	8.9%
Vehicle Access Tracks	149,273	5.5%
Gate installation	117,667	4.3%
Habitat Restoration	64,257	2.4%
Feed equipment	54,337	2.0%
Total	2,711,544	

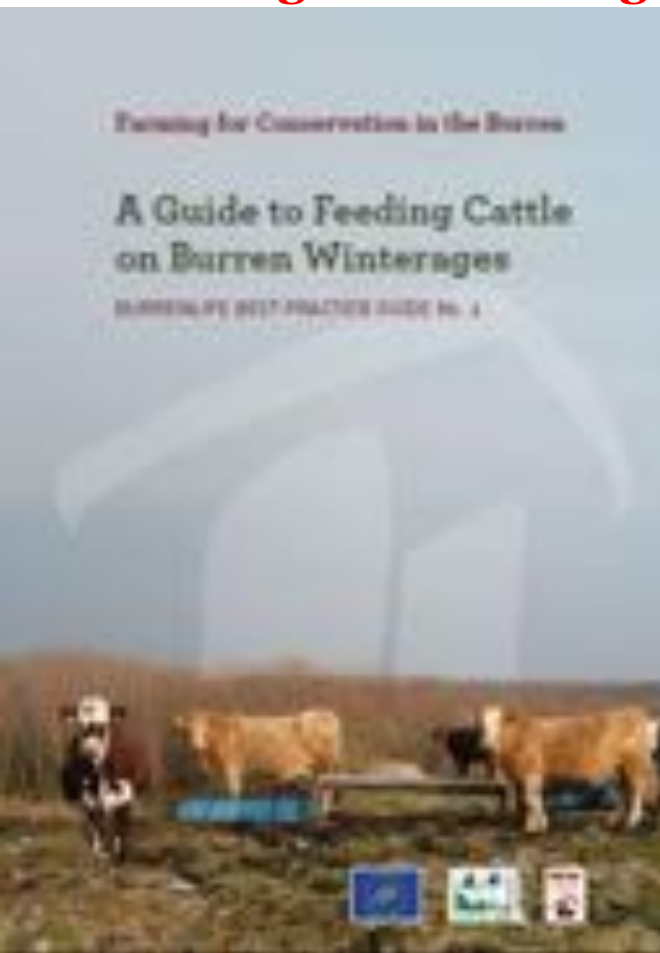
The Head: Providing local technical support

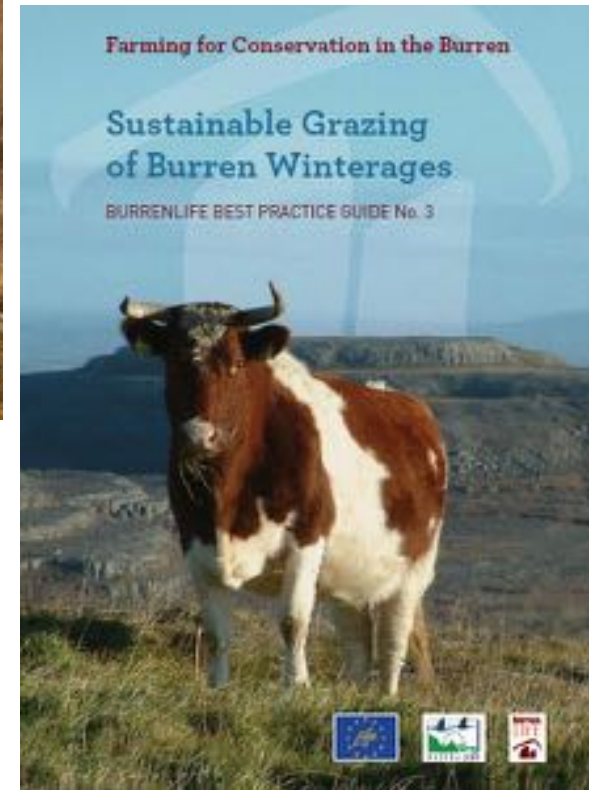




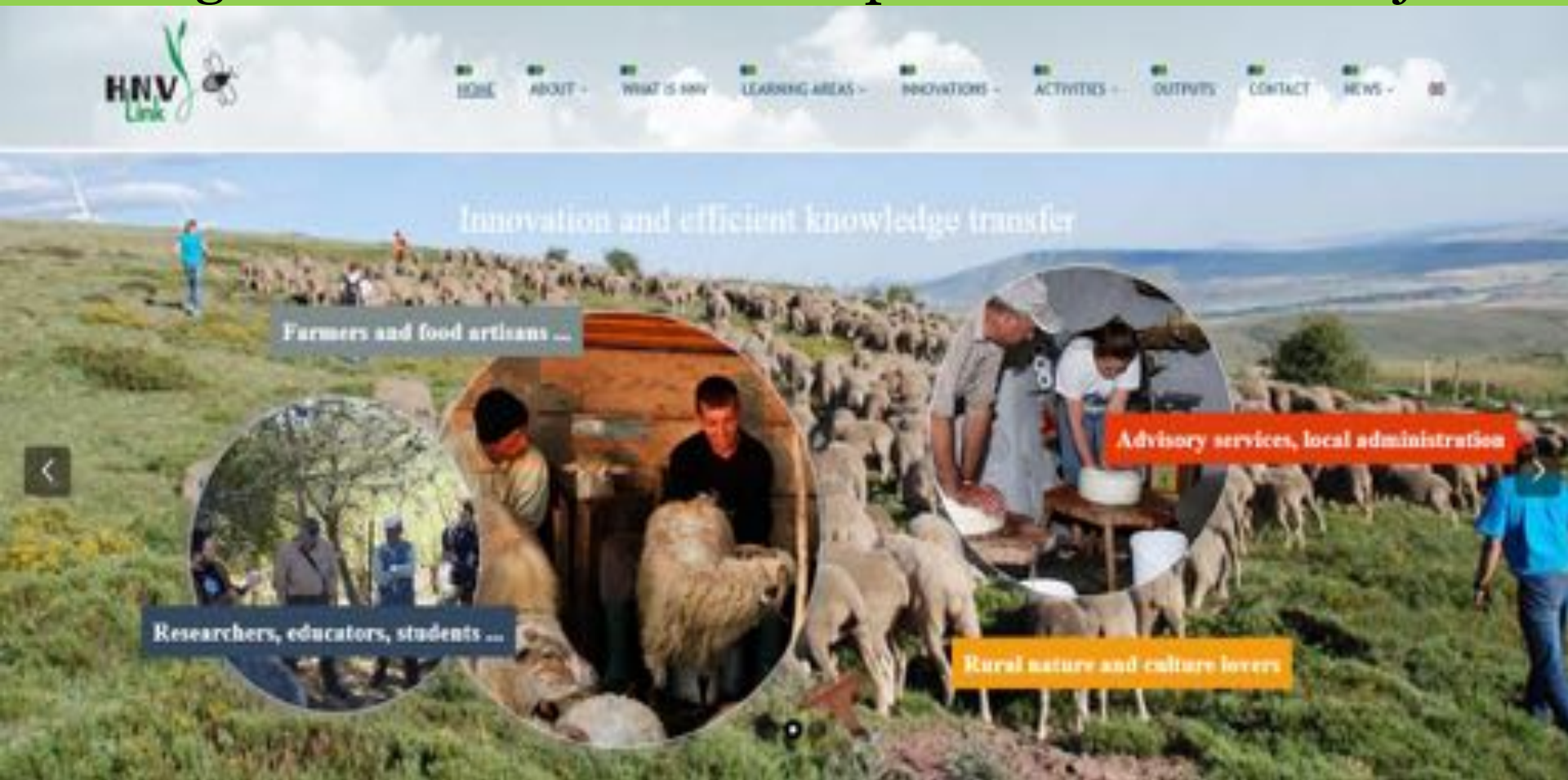
Sponsored by NPWS, co-funded
by Teagasc, Burren IFA

Co-creating solutions: e.g.





Sharing innovations across Europe – HNV-LINK Project



HNV-LINK - High Nature Value Farming: Learning, Innovation and Knowledge



THIS PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME UNDER GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 696391

www.hnmlink.eu

The Heart: Building local ownership



Moving from Antipathy and Apathy to Empathy and Action



Growing local ownership:

Stage 1: 1997-2001 Listening to and learning from farmers

Stage 2: 2002 – 2004 Re-framing the narrative to include farmers

Stage 3: 2005-2010 Farmers and researchers co-create solutions



'... 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).



burrenbeotrust
connecting people and place

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**Place-based Learning
Summer Courses**

2 July 2018 - 4 July 2018

Tools and skills for learning and
tracking about local places

DES approved 5 day course

Burrenbeo Trust Centre

**Burren Winterage
Weekend**

29 October 2018 - 28 October 2018

The Burren Winterage Weekend is a
community-led initiative

The Burren

[SEE ALL OUR EVENTS](#)

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

Community learning initiatives



Community wellbeing initiatives

burren**b**eo**t**r**u**st
connecting people and place



change **X**



Celebrating high nature value farming and its contribution...



Burren Winterage Weekend
Celebrating our Farming Heritage
25-27 OCTOBER 2018  www.burrenwinterage.com

Winterage Cattle Drive
Informative & Interactive Talks
Heedsman's Walk across the Burren
Cattle, Farming & Machinery Displays
Food Fayre with Tastings & Demonstrations
Traditional Craft Demonstrations
Exhibitions, Songs & Stories
Active Conservation
Fun for the Family
& much more...

www.burrenwinterage.com
or contact: 0800 666 666 or info@burrentrust.com

burren trust
open your eyes to the living world

The Burren Winterage Weekend is a charity event. All proceeds go to the Burren Trust. For more information, please visit www.burrentrust.com or contact 0800 666 666.

Shaping a new narrative around farming and nature



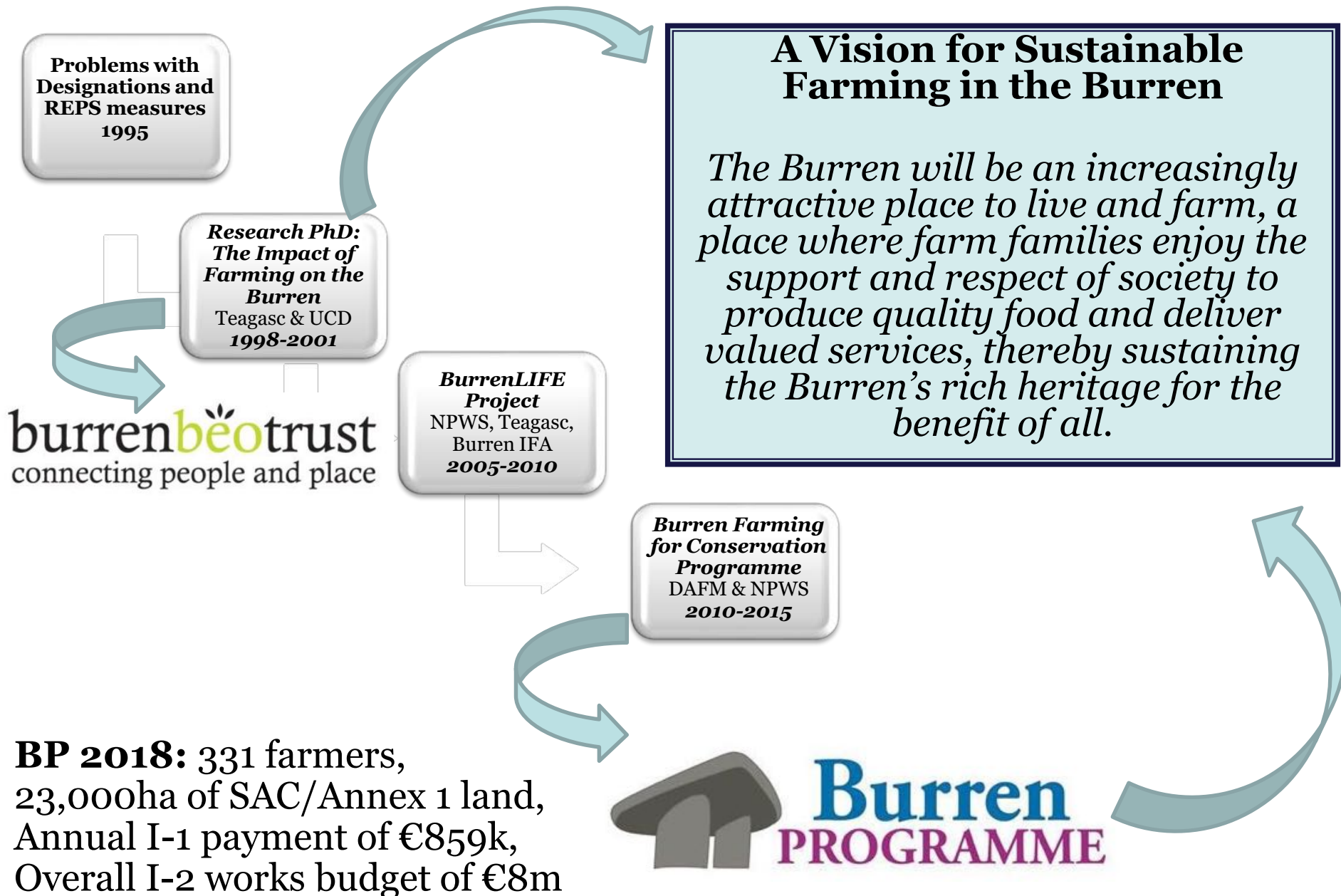
Working with farmers

tural health of the



Bord Bia supported *National Farming for Nature Award*

20 years a growing ... and learning



Key Principles



1. Farmer-centered

Practical, local, relevant to farmer

Fair and transparent payment system

Minimal paperwork – e.g farm plan, permission for works etc

Positive (language, incentives)

Flexible – freedom to farm

Continuity of staff and office

Farmer's needs inform scientific input and programme design

2. Locally led (targeted)

Office in the central Burren (old schoolhouse)

7 Staff (6FTEs), 4 living in the Burren, 2 in Clare

11 farm advisors, 4 farming in the Burren, >60% of Plans

Database of 60 local workers (mainly farmers) to assist with carrying out farm works



More administratively expensive?

Following competitive tender, BP team awarded contract to manage BP

Contract value <15% of projected programme spend

Approximately 30-40% of BP team time spent on 'admin', remainder on technical support for farmers and advisors, monitoring of Field scores and oversight of farm works, securing permissions for works, communications etc.

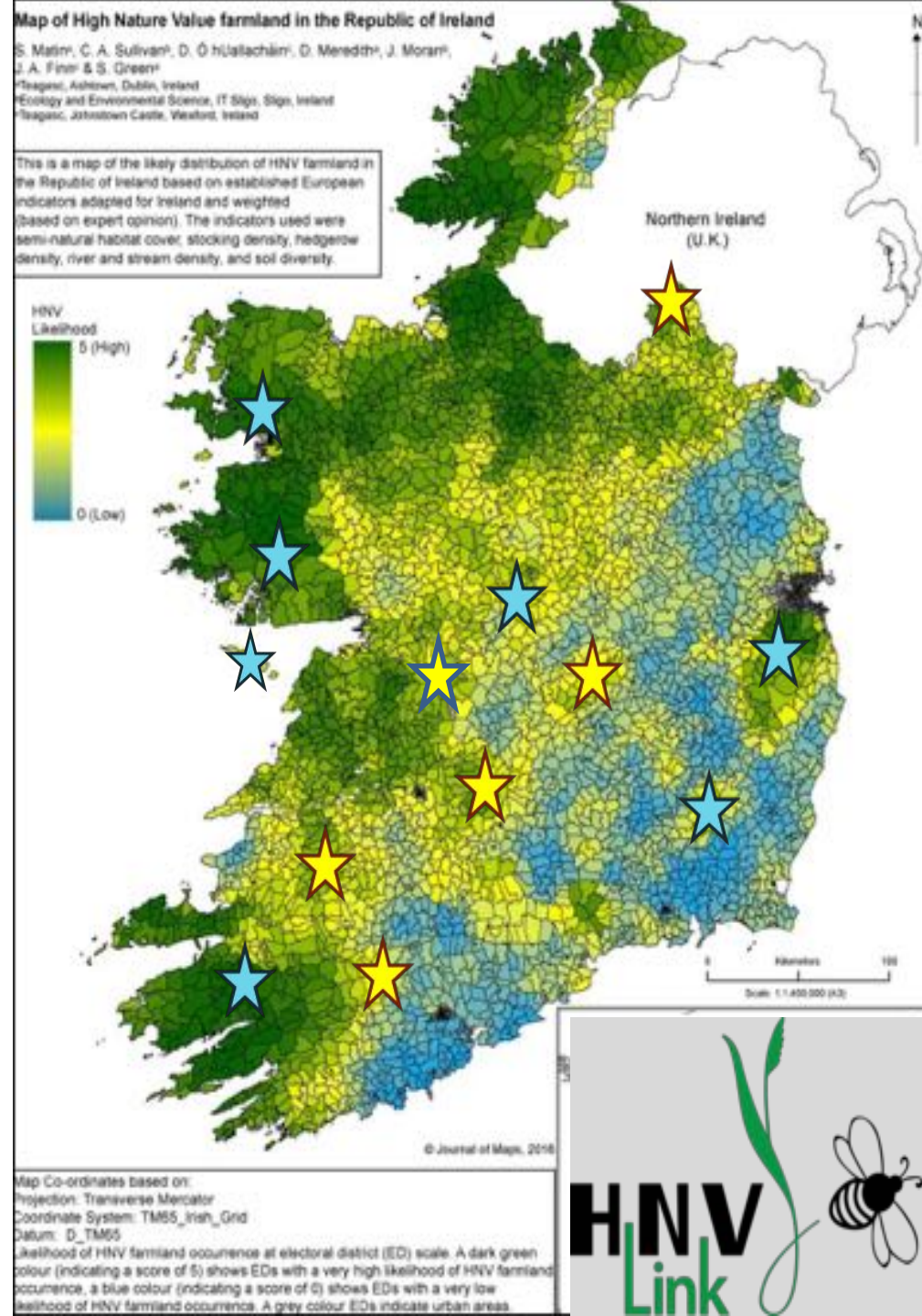
Locally led approaches



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



3. Results-based payments



Some Benefits of Paying for Results

Incentive:	Better product, more money.
Meaningful:	Clear aims & includes criteria the farmer can control or manage.
Flexible:	Freedom to farm & adaptable to individual situations.
Value for money:	Poorer performance, less money.
Awareness:	Farmers recognising additional roles of farming (multi-functional agriculture).
Monitoring tool:	Change in scores can demonstrate impact.

For examples see www.rbaps.eu

Being Adaptive and responsive



Action based Payments



Results based Payments



BurrenLIFE



Burren Programme



Future BP?

**Building in adaptability over time ... and place ...and priority
(eg habitats, species, water, carbon...?)**

Some simple lessons from the Burren for the ELCN:

Farmers are a conservation 'resource'. To use this resource we need to:

Clearly explain what it is we want farmers to deliver on their land.

Reward (directly and indirectly) farmers who deliver what we want.

Provide farmers with practical, relevant (local?) technical support.

Do better at engaging farmers, making them feel part of the solution - not the problem



Thank you!



www.burrenprogramme.com

www.burrenbeo.com

www.farmingfornature.ie