



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



**unesco**

Oidhreacht Dhomhanda  
in Éirinn

World Heritage in Ireland

# Sceilg Mhichíl

## World Heritage Property Management Plan 2020–30

### Action Programme – Progress Tracker

December 2025

Prepared by the National Monuments Service  
[gov.ie](http://gov.ie)

**Green:** Completed.  
**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.  
**Red:** Not started.

## Action Programme Progress Tracker December 2025

Summary of Progress Tracker			
Status		Amount	Percentage
Completed and	On track/ongoing	125	72.3%
Started, but behind schedule		29	16.8%
Not started		19	10.9%

The management plan is dominated by many actions and indicators that are by their nature ongoing and this is reflected in the summary and throughout the tracker.

Objective 1: To have in place and implement an effective management framework to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of Sceilg Mhichíl.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
A1.1	Monitor implementation and effectiveness of the plan actions.	Review of implementation and effectiveness of the plan actions.	2026.	
		Review findings publicly released.	January 2027.	
		Plan actions amended to increase effectiveness, if necessary, and subject to AA and SEA.	Ongoing, as required.	
A1.2	Continue supporting the activities of the WHP management team and agencies responsible for the management and care of Sceilg Mhichíl and its visitors.	Funding and resources provided.	All ongoing.	
		Logistical support provided.		
		Built and natural heritage managed and protected.		
		Visitor service supported.		

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

**Objective 1: To have in place and implement an effective management framework to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of Sceilg Mhichíl.**

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
<b>A1.3</b>	Continue the oversight role of the SMIG throughout the lifetime of this plan.	SMIG meetings held twice a year.	Biannual.	
<b>A1.4</b>	Ensure compliance with World Heritage Convention requirements.	Annual report submitted to UNESCO.	Annually, in January.	
		Report published on World Heritage Ireland website ( <a href="http://www.worldheritageireland.ie">http://www.worldheritageireland.ie</a> ).	Annually in January.	
		Management plan amended annually to reflect any changes to the 2019 UNESCO <b>Operational Guidelines</b> .	Annually.	
		Regular liaison with UNESCO, including attendance at meetings of the World Heritage Committee as necessary.	Annually and as required.	

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 2: To improve engagement with local-interest groups and other relevant parties.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A2.1</b>	Engage with CIL to secure the Lower Lighthouse complex for use by staff and visitors.	Lease agreement for former lighthouse buildings concluded.	2022.	Red
		Former lighthouse buildings adapted for use as management hub and visitor facility.	2030.	Blue
<b>A2.2</b>	Engage with outside groups and stakeholders to facilitate the effective implementation of the management plan.	Regular meetings held with community, local-interest groups, the local authority, other government departments and other public bodies as required to discuss specific areas or issues of interest.	Ongoing.	Blue
<b>A2.3</b>	Create a Sceilg Mhichíl stakeholder forum to address issues of mutual interest and inform decision-making processes.	Creation of the stakeholder forum.	2022	Amber
		Subject to the views of the forum, report produced on issues and decisions addressed through the forum.	Annually from the date of the forum's creation.	Amber
<b>A2.4</b>	Meet with local boat operators to discuss issues of mutual interest, including health and safety and the operational framework.	Meeting held annually and minutes circulated.	Annually and as required.	Blue
<b>A2.5</b>	Make publicly available existing and future reports on Sceilg Mhichíl via a dedicated website page for Sceilg Mhichíl.	Release report findings online.	Ongoing, as required.	Blue

**Green:** Completed.  
**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.  
**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 3: To preserve the cultural heritage of the island and sustain its Outstanding Universal Value.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A3.1</b>	Carry out a full pre-works survey and detailed specification for each annual phase of works in advance of any work commencing on the WHP.	Detailed specification and pre-works survey completed annually.	Annually.	Blue
<b>A3.2</b>	Prepare a formal, structured maintenance programme for all conserved structures.	Maintenance programme prepared and implemented.	Annually.	Blue
<b>A3.3 (a)</b>	Report on archaeological works undertaken each year.	Archaeological report submitted annually in accordance with ministerial-consent conditions and made publicly available.	Annually, in January.	Blue
<b>A3.3 (b)</b>	Publish a full monograph of archaeological works undertaken on the island.	Publication of the monograph of archaeological works.	2024.	Amber
<b>A3.4 (a)</b>	Report on conservation works undertaken each year.	Report submitted annually in accordance with ministerial-consent conditions and released publicly.	Annually, in January.	Blue
<b>A3.4 (b)</b>	Publish a full monograph of conservation works undertaken on the island.	Full monograph published.	2030.	Red

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

**Objective 3: To preserve the cultural heritage of the island and sustain its Outstanding Universal Value.**

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
<b>A3.5</b>	Ensure that heritage objects for Sceilg Mhichíl are archived and cared for appropriately.	All artefacts and objects lodged with National Museum of Ireland.	Ongoing.	Blue
		Some hand crosses and other artefacts lodged in the Killarney OPW depot.		Blue
		Inventory made available in NMS archives.		Green
<b>A3.6</b>	Ensure that the EAC continues to advise on future research and publication.	Regular meetings held.	Ongoing	Blue
		Advice implemented.		Blue

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 4: To identify and conserve the natural heritage of the island.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A4.1</b>	Prepare site-specific conservation objectives for the bird species for which the Skelligs SPA has been designated. Include quantitative conservation objectives, attributes and targets.	Continue the monitoring of the SCIs of Skelligs SPA to determine species specific issues and population levels (as per A4.5 and A4.6).	Ongoing.	Amber
		Available information on the ecological requirements of each of the SCIs of the Skelligs SPA used to select suitable attributes for conservation objective-setting. Available monitoring data used to set targets for each attribute, which will be quantitative where possible.	2022.	Amber
		Conservation objective attributes and targets reviewed and refined as necessary.	2026.	Green
<b>A4.2</b>	Maintain close cooperation between the SMIG, the property management team, the NPWS and the guide team.	Meetings held twice yearly in respect of the guide team.	Ongoing.	Blue
		Summary of meetings disseminated across the team and to interested parties.	Ongoing.	Blue
<b>A4.3</b>	Secure ministerial consent, underpinned by relevant scientific data and analyses where required, for relevant interventions as required.	Consents granted.	Ongoing.	Blue
<b>A4.4</b>	Ensure that an ecological assessment	OPW to conduct initial ecological assessment	Ongoing as required.	Blue

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

Objective 4: To identify and conserve the natural heritage of the island.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
	is undertaken for any project or activity that which might significantly impact on the biodiversity of the island (including screening for AA and AA if necessary, for any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on the species and their habitats for which the SPA has been designated) so that nature-conservation issues are considered alongside built heritage.	and consult with NPWS/ecological experts as required.		
		Screening for AA undertaken as required for any project where significant effects on the Skelligs SPA are possible.	Ongoing as required.	
		Summary of assessments conducted each year released.	Annually, in January.	
<b>A4.5</b>	Continue to develop the seabird-monitoring programme, with particular attention to burrow-nesting seabirds, in order to derive, among other things, robust population estimates, population trends and the identification of pressures acting on the populations. Such data will inform the management of both public access and the works programme in monitoring potential effects of human activities.	Plots including artificial nest boxes/sites established in order to undertake monitoring of species throughout breeding cycle.	2022.	
		Monitoring study of the burrowing/nesting species carried out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to monitor breeding success by following a subset of nests checked at the beginning and towards the end of the breeding season to determine the number of chicks fledged per apparently occupied burrow (AOB); and</li> <li>to monitor areas of high visitor footfall</li> </ul>	Annually.	

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 4: To identify and conserve the natural heritage of the island.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
		and areas where there are no visitors to help assess trends in breeding success in relation to visual and physical disturbance from visitors.		
		Data from the above collated and analysed to inform management of the property.	2026, 2028, 2030.	
		Study findings publicly released.	2027, 2029, 2031.	
<b>A4.6</b>	On an annual basis, carry out a census of all cliff-nesting seabird species and estimate the breeding productivity of Sceilg Mhichil's kittiwake population.	Carry out census count and kittiwake productivity work.	Annually.	
		Report publicly released.	Annually, in January.	
<b>A4.7</b>	Ensure that the value of the seabird data collected at Sceilg Mhichil is optimised by contributing to national and international seabird survey and monitoring initiatives.	Relevant census data submitted to Seabirds Count steering group and other bodies where appropriate.	Ongoing.	
<b>A4.8</b>	Participate in national and international seabird survey and monitoring initiatives.	Census data released as sought.	As required.	
<b>A4.9</b>	Implement, and if necessary update, the biosecurity action plan	Recommendations of the biosecurity plan implemented.	2022.	

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 4: To identify and conserve the natural heritage of the island.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
	to deal with accidental or deliberate introductions of predator species.	Annual report on outcomes of implementing the plan released online.	Annually, in January.	
<b>A4.10</b>	Exclude recreational and other non-essential helicopter flights from an exclusion zone of 1 kilometre surrounding Skelligs SPA.	Flights monitored on a regular basis.	Ongoing.	
		Flight policy developed and implemented.	2022.	
<b>A4.11</b>	Finalise and publish a vegetation survey, including an investigation of species that may have been cultivated by the monks.	Vegetation survey finalised and published online.	2024.	
<b>A4.12</b>	Promote and undertake survey, research and, where needed, conservation work of other biodiversity taxa on the island.	New research strategy in place and surveys carried out.	Ongoing.	
		Dedicated grant funding made available.		
<b>A4.13</b>	Research the impacts of mice and rabbits on the biodiversity and archaeological heritage of the islands. Consider whether eradication is necessary.	Research carried out and subsequent reports made publicly available.	2022 and ongoing.	
<b>A4.14</b>	Develop guidance for boat operators to follow to reduce potential impacts on wildlife on Sceilg Mhichíl and in the surrounding waters.	Guidance developed.	2022.	

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 4: To identify and conserve the natural heritage of the island.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A4.1 5</b>	Within one year of installation of lighting arrangements for the operation of the Lower Lighthouse complex, review those lighting arrangements and, if necessary and where practicable, within a further one year implement lighting measures, such as use of blinds, downward lighting, to reduce the risk of bird strikes.	Review of lighting impact on birds conducted.	Within 1 year of installation of lighting arrangements.	
		As required, implement measures (e.g., blinds, downward lighting) if required.	Within 1 year of review completion.	
<b>A4.1 6</b>	Continued supervision of wall maintenance by an ornithologist to ensure that burrow entrances remain accessible to breeding birds (in particular storm petrel), with the objective of maintaining/increasing the net amount of potential breeding chambers in the walls overall, which are subjected to maintenance works.	Record of ornithologist presence and notes released.	Annually, in January.	
<b>A4.1 7</b>	Works/research programmes will be subject to site-specific mitigation measures. This may include, for example, conducting pre-works surveys to establish the location of any burrows utilised for nesting in the works area, the marking of such burrows so they	Appropriate mitigation for each works/research project determined.	Ongoing as required.	

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

Objective 4: To identify and conserve the natural heritage of the island.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
	may be avoided, and avoiding certain time-periods where birds may be more susceptible to disturbance.			
A4.1 8	Assess the impacts of visitors and related activities in Year 5 of the plan period, informed by the monitoring data collected in the first four years, and take any necessary action on foot of such an assessment.	Desk-based assessment of visitor impacts, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assessment of population distribution across the site, to determine the proportion of population which interacts with human activities; and</li> <li>quantification of impacts of visitors by comparing breeding success of birds under/adjacent to paths with those away from immediate visitor traffic.</li> </ul>	2026.	
		Assessment findings publicly released.	2027, in January.	
		Necessary action taken on foot of assessment results.	2027.	

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

**Objective 5: To further promote the importance of the WHP to ensure continued coordination by government departments, agencies and other statutory bodies with responsibilities for making and implementing national policies and undertaking activities that may impact on Sceilg Mhichíl and its environs.**

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
<b>A5.1</b>	Adopt and implement this management plan as a framework for the policies, future plans and decisions regarding Sceilg Mhichíl.	Management plan published and used as a framework.	Ongoing.	Blue
<b>A5.2</b>	Ensure compliance with all relevant statutory provisions for the protection of the WHP.	Compliance with all regulatory statutes and legislation.	Ongoing.	Blue
<b>A5.3</b>	Work with the local authority to ensure recognition of the status of this management plan in its county development plans.	Management plan referenced in county development plans.	Ongoing.	Green
<b>A5.4</b>	Heighten awareness by Kerry County Council and other relevant agencies and stakeholders of the obligations arising from a WHP designation.	Increased awareness among all bodies.	Ongoing.	Blue
		Regular meetings with relevant agencies and stakeholders.		Blue

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 6: To manage visitors to Sceilg Mhichíl effectively.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A6.1</b>	Continue to manage the National Monument, nature reserve and SPA at Sceilg Mhichíl, while allowing a system of managed public access that ensures that the conservation of the WHP is maintained as a first priority.	Sustainable visitor access managed (see below).	Ongoing.	
<b>A6.2</b>	Maintain a strictly defined annual season within which the island will, weather and sea conditions permitting, be open to visitors and publicise this appropriately with details of the permitted transit services.	Appropriate annual season maintained (at present mid-May to end of September).	Ongoing.	
		Details of permitted transit services publicised.	Annually.	
		CCTV/other measures introduced on the island to deter and/or detect unauthorised or out-of-season landings on the island.	Ongoing.	
<b>A6.3</b>	Maintain a quality guide service to directly invigilate the island during the season, offer appropriate information to visitors and manage safety systems.	Adequately resourced and trained guide team in place during the visitor season.	Ongoing.	
<b>A6.4</b>	Collect visitor statistics for each season and analyse trends in order to provide quality management information. Publish annual statistics and analytical report online.	Collate and analyse collected data.	Annually, from the end of the visitor season.	
		Release report publicly online.	Annually, in January.	

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

Objective 6: To manage visitors to Sceilg Mhichíl effectively.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
A6.5	Liaise with Fáilte Ireland and local tourism networks in the implementation of the tourism strategy for the greater south Kerry area outlined in the Skellig Coast VEDP.	Resource support for Skellig Coast VEDP provided.	Ongoing.	Blue
		Skellig Experience Visitor Centre secured to deliver excellent customer service, which directly supports tourism.		Green
		Skellig Experience Visitor Centre used to provide a virtual and interpretative experience to those who cannot access the property directly and encourage visits to other monuments and natural-heritage sites in the area.		Amber
A6.6	Continue to regularly review both the patterns of movement across the property and whether the 180-visitor-per-day limit is sustainable, with regard to the cultural and natural heritage features of the property and to visitor safety.	Annual review of visitor volumes and patterns carried out and any attendant risks identified and reported to SMIG.	Ongoing.	Blue
		Report released publicly online.	Annually, from end of visitor season.	Amber
		Sustainable pattern of visitor use maintained.	Ongoing.	Blue
A6.7	Continue to maintain safety systems and procedures on Sceilg Mhichíl to ensure that visitor and staff safety are not compromised and	Annual safety courses for staff carried out.	Annually.	Blue
		Other emergency services engaged with		Blue

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

Objective 6: To manage visitors to Sceilg Mhichíl effectively.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
	there is an effective and trained emergency response in place in the event of accident.	to enable coordinated responses to be tested.		Blue
		Systems reviewed and updated annually as required.		Blue
<b>A6.8</b>	Engage with aircraft regulatory authorities to mitigate conservation risks arising from inappropriate deployment of airborne devices and aircraft above and around Sceilg Mhichíl in order to manage risks to the property.	Regulatory authority engagement on the development and implementation of appropriate protocols.	2022.	Amber
		Assessment of any unilaterally enabled actions that can be undertaken through SMIG.		Green
<b>A6.9</b>	Disseminate information to inform the seagoing community of the necessary controls on access to the island, including biosecurity requirements.	Engagement with seagoing community and information supplied through public announcements, websites and social media.	Ongoing.	Blue
<b>A6.10</b>	Continue the practice of excluding private vessels from landing visitors on the island.	Existing situation monitored.	Ongoing.	Blue
<b>A6.11</b>	Continue to balance the need to preserve the National Monument with the need to facilitate public access by	Current permit system continued in operation.	Ongoing.	Blue

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

Objective 6: To manage visitors to Sceilg Mhichíl effectively.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
	operating a boat-permit scheme for landing visitors on the island during the visitor season.	Liaison with boat operators in relation to permits.		Blue
A6.12	Work on the provision of toilet facilities on the island, based in the compound around the Lower Lighthouse.	Toilet facilities designed.	2022.	Green
		Facilities in place by 2022.	2022.	Green
A6.13	Disseminate wildlife guidance information to inform the public of the exceptionalism of the natural heritage of Sceilg Mhichíl and to raise awareness of its fragility, the need to remain on the designated pathways and mitigate any impacts.	OPW and NPWS to develop information leaflet on 'do's/don'ts' for visiting Sceilg Mhichíl and make available online.	2022.	Green
		OPW to agree distribution methods (e.g., signage at boarding locations, signage on vessels or physical copies of leaflet) with appropriate stakeholders (e.g., vessel operators and Skellig Michael Visitor Centre).	Within 1 month of publishing leaflet, and thereafter ongoing.	Green
		Inform visitors after disembarking on the island through talks from accredited guides.	Daily for each group of visitors.	Blue
A6.14	Carry out daily spot checks on points along the access pathways to ensure visitor compliance with adhering to the designated pathways on the property.	Spot checks conducted.	Daily	Blue
		Collect and analyse data.	Annually, in January.	Blue
		Release findings in annual report.	Annually, in January.	Amber

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 6: To manage visitors to Sceilg Mhichíl effectively.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A6.15</b>	Put in place measures to prevent unauthorised drone flying. These shall include the continued dissemination of information (e.g., at booking, at the piers, on the boats) to explain why unauthorised drones are banned on the property, along with the creation of a process for the authorisation of legitimate drone usage onsite.	Develop prevention methods.	2022.	Amber
		Create authorisation process for drone usage.	2022.	Green
		Report on instances of unauthorised drone usage.	Annually, in January.	Amber
<b>A6.16</b>	Put in place further signage and physical measures at the property entrance to further dissuade unauthorised access outside of the visitor season and/or use CCTV cameras to monitor the pier area.	Installation of chain barrier and/or CCTV cameras to monitor the pier area.	2022.	Amber

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 7: To maintain an appropriate standard of safe, regulated visitor access that supports conservation aims.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A7.1</b>	Continue to address, in cooperation with boat operators and the Marine Survey Office of the Department of Transport, safety issues relevant to the sea crossing.	Yearly review carried out, with a focus on visitor safety of transit services, taking into account any new marine-safety statutory requirements.	All annually and ongoing.	Blue
		Permit conditions under which the boat operators work enforced in respect of safety issues.		Blue
<b>A7.2</b>	Continue the ongoing review of the criteria for the granting of permits for boats to land visitors on the island to ensure that the system adapts to any changing circumstances.	Periodic reviews of requirements undertaken to ensure that selection criteria remain relevant and up to date.	Biennially.	Blue
		Any changes to be informed to stakeholders at earliest opportunity and imported into existing arrangements.	As required.	Blue
<b>A7.3</b>	Collect visitor-traffic data and analyse trends with a view to providing quality data for informed decision-making.	Patterns of boat services monitored and visitor-traffic trends analysed.	Annually, from the end of the visitor season.	Blue
		Report issued annually to SMIG and made publicly available.	Annually, in January.	Amber

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 7: To maintain an appropriate standard of safe, regulated visitor access that supports conservation aims.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A7.4</b>	Maintain the current minimum time limit of 2.5 hours for visits to the island on days when normal weather conditions prevail to improve the visitor experience.	Current minimum time limit for visitors maintained.	Ongoing.	
		Controls maintained on numbers of people on the island at any one time.		
<b>A7.5</b>	Continue to work with emergency-response agencies to prepare and train for a variety of serious accident and rescue scenarios.	Trained emergency response maintained (see below).	Annually and ongoing.	
		Appropriate safety-drill exercises involving external rescue-services partners carried out periodically as needed.		
<b>A7.6</b>	Train guide staff appropriately and maintain regular personal-competency certifications.	Annual training delivered to OPW teams to maintain necessary certifications, e.g., first aid, defibrillator use.	Annually and ongoing.	
		Certifications in relevant safety training updated as required.		
		Accident-/incident-recording system maintained onsite and all issues recorded on National Incident Management System.		

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

Objective 7: To maintain an appropriate standard of safe, regulated visitor access that supports conservation aims.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
<b>A7.7</b>	Entrust OPW, as property manager, with the maintenance of an up-to-date safety statement for the island, in accordance with health and safety legislation, and continue to use appropriate risk-assessment modelling on the island to plan for visitor and staff safety.	Safety statement reviewed and updated regularly.	Annually and ongoing.	Blue
		Appropriate risk-assessment model in place		Blue
		Visitor- and staff-/contractor-safety policy in place		Blue
		Necessary legislative requirements observed to support appropriate management of safety issues		Blue
<b>A7.8</b>	Continue to ensure safe access to the island during the season by regular maintenance of the pier and steps during the official visitor season and ensure that appropriate signage is in place at the pier and at the steps to the South Peak and continue to maintain and improve up to date safety information available online.	Maintenance of pier and steps.	Annually, before the site opens to visitors.	Blue
		Implement appropriate signage onsite and online: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• visitor-safety film made available online and reviewed periodically;</li> <li>• visitor-safety guide made available in multiple languages for distribution by boat operators and online; and</li> </ul>	2022.	Green

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

Objective 7: To maintain an appropriate standard of safe, regulated visitor access that supports conservation aims.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>advisory safety signage in place where appropriate throughout island.</li> </ul>		
<b>A7.9</b>	Maintain an appropriate access arrangement for the South Peak in particular that recognises its particularly challenging nature; ensure that casual visitor access is controlled.	Existing South Peak access permission system maintained.	Annually and ongoing.	
		Unauthorised and casual visitor access monitored		
		South Peak safety access system maintained		
<b>A7.10</b>	Implement a conditions-advisory system during the visitor season to support boat operators with advice on sea and weather conditions on the island.	Conditions-advisory system for boat operators maintained.	Annually and ongoing.	
		Closure of island to landings or variations to phased landing pattern advised to boat operators.		

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

**Objective 7: To maintain an appropriate standard of safe, regulated visitor access that supports conservation aims.**

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
<b>A7.11</b>	Establish a staggered regime for the arrival times of boats over the course of the day to reduce overcrowding on the property and reduce the potential for visitors to venture from the designated pathways. Use monitoring data collected for A4.5 to assess positive/negative impacts of staggering on SCIs.	Stagger boat arrival times between 10am and 2pm.	Ongoing.	Blue
		Examine monitoring data to determine if practice should be continued.	2026.	Red
<b>A7.12</b>	Disseminate guidance to all boat operators landing visitors on Sceilg Mhichíl or taking visitors on tours around the island, to ensure they are informed of potential adverse effects from visual and physical disturbance on wildlife (e.g., rafting seabirds and seals), and are requested to avoid disturbance.	NPWS (in collaboration with OPW) to develop guidance for boat operators for vessel speeds and separation distances from wildlife.	2022.	Amber
		Review provided guidance to ensure it remains current.	2026 and 2031.	Red

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

Objective 8: To increase understanding of and appreciation for Sceilg Mhichíl and its environs.				
No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
A8.1	Continue to publish, for public distribution, the multilingual visitor-guide pamphlet interpreting the monastic and natural history of Sceilg Mhichíl.	Continue to publish, for public distribution, the multilingual visitor-guide pamphlet interpreting the monastic and natural history of Sceilg Mhichíl.	As required.	Blue
A8.2	Maintain the website for Sceilg Mhichíl ( <a href="https://worldheritageireland.ie/">https://worldheritageireland.ie/</a> ) and continue to provide relevant information on the significance of the property; provide periodic updates on the implementation of the management plan and advise visitors on how to prepare for a safe visit to the island.	Website updated with relevant information on adoption of the plan.	Annually.	Green
		Status report on adoption of the plan released.		Blue
A8.3	Enhance the dissemination of information on Sceilg Mhichíl by providing materials in diverse media and meeting any reasonable requests for information insofar as possible.	Number of information leaflets in different languages expanded further.	Ongoing.	Blue
		DHLGH and OPW websites expanded further and improved.		Green
		Effective response to requests for information maintained.		Blue
A8.4	Create an education outreach programme within the context of the landside facilities being contemplated at the Skellig Experience Visitor Centre in Portmagee, linking to schools	Consultation with relevant stakeholders entered into.	2022.	Amber
		Outreach element to planned visitor centre set up	2023.	Amber

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 8: To increase understanding of and appreciation for Sceilg Mhichíl and its environs.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
	and other educational institutions.	Plans for school visit schemes developed	2023.	
<b>A8.5</b>	Continue to support and give natural-history public lectures and/or case-study seminars on the conservation works and the history of the island.	Public lectures, seminars and conference presence continued.	Ongoing	
		Broader use of planned visitor-centre facility to specifically target opportunities for engagement with academic and other interest groups, particularly in shoulder and off seasons.		
		Literature provided or incorporated into existing signage – i.e., information on the biodiversity of Na Scealga, including their global importance for seabirds.		
<b>A8.6</b>	Promote public awareness of other heritage sites of importance in the area in order to broaden visitor experience; provide resources to support this in the Skellig Experience Visitor Centre in Portmagee in particular.	Awareness of local land-based monuments developed in the planned visitor centre, in line with the objectives of the Skellig Coast VEDP.	2023.	
		Visitor awareness of broader built and natural heritage of wider south-Kerry area developed.		

**Green:** Completed.  
**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.  
**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 8: To increase understanding of and appreciation for Sceilg Mhichíl and its environs.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A8.7</b>	Support and incentivise local initiatives, such as organised walks and tours of historical and biodiversity sites of interest, in the Iveragh Peninsula.	Interested stakeholders, including tourist authorities, consulted on how best to achieve aim.	Ongoing	Blue
		NPWS and relevant non-governmental organisations consulted on biodiversity sites in the south Kerry area.		Blue
		Local initiatives supported during the early stages of their development.		Red
		Initiatives from the planned visitor centre proactively supported.		Red
<b>A8.8</b>	Liaise with Fáilte Ireland and any other appropriate third parties to ensure high-quality information and offsite interpretation for visitors is provided where appropriate, including in the Skellig Experience Visitor Centre.	Appropriate information provided at the Skellig Experience Visitor Centre and other locations.	Ongoing	Red
		Options for improvements to information/interpretation delivery, including online, multi-language, etc., assessed periodically.		Red
<b>A8.9</b>	Maintain an outreach programme by the management team.	Further lectures given on different aspects of the property.	Ongoing	Blue

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

**Objective 8: To increase understanding of and appreciation for Sceilg Mhichíl and its environs.**

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
		Advice on tourism initiatives continued.		

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 9: To maintain and enhance the landscape setting of Sceilg Mhichíl.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A9.1 (a)</b>	Design alternative onsite accommodation based in the Lower Lighthouse.	Alternative accommodation designed and built in Lower Lighthouse.	2023.	
<b>A9.1 (b)</b>	Ensure the design of temporary work huts is in keeping with the landscape of the island.	Temporary accommodation reviewed for landscape impact.	2023.	
<b>A9.2</b>	Maintain the current waste-management strategy, agreed with Kerry County Council, for the recycling and removal of waste.	Regular meetings held.	Ongoing.	
		Protocols regularly reviewed and enforced.		
<b>A9.3</b>	Continue regular liaison with the local-authority Environmental Officer.	Regular meetings held.	Ongoing.	
<b>A9.4</b>	Design and build visitor toilet facilities in Lower Lighthouse compound.	Toilet facilities in place by 2022.	2023.	
		Toilet facilities maintained after 2022.	Ongoing.	

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

**Objective 10: To monitor those factors with the potential to impact on the built and natural environment of Sceilg Mhichíl.**

No.	Action	Indicator	Target Date	Status
<b>A10.1</b>	Develop a framework for monitoring climate change on the island.	Development of framework commenced.	2022.	
		Finalised framework published online.	2023.	
<b>A10.2</b>	Ensure that any possible impact of climate change on Sceilg Mhichíl is monitored.	Continued monitoring of climate change impacts, e.g., erosion events, flora and fauna surveys.	Ongoing.	
<b>A10.3</b>	Monitor the change of structures, using technical assistance as required.	Seasonal surveys carried out and reports made available.	Annually.	
<b>A10.4</b>	Monitor, on an annual basis, other factors that may impinge on the built and natural environment.	Off-season damage reports compiled and analysed.	Ongoing.	

**Green:** Completed.

**Amber:** Started, but behind schedule.

**Blue:** On track/ongoing.

**Red:** Not started.

<b>Objective 11: To establish a research framework for Sceilg Mhichíl.</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>A11.1</b>	Support any relevant national research programmes.	Programmes supported.	Ongoing.	Blue
<b>A11.2</b>	Establish a research framework that would encourage involvement from third-level institutions and other interested parties.	Research framework developed and published.	2026.	Amber
		EAC meetings held regularly to coordinate.	Annually.	Blue
<b>A11.3</b>	Complete the research programme on geology and historic quarrying.	Research completed and published.	2026.	Green
<b>A11.4</b>	Complete research on water collection and management.	Research completed and published.	2026.	Red
<b>A11.5</b>	Complete the programme of vegetation surveys and investigation of plant species that may have been cultivated by the monks.	Research completed and published.	2023.	Amber
<b>A11.6</b>	Complete research into the development of drystone construction based on the work being carried out on the monastic structures.	Research completed and published.	2023.	Amber
<b>A11.7</b>	Enhance visitors' experience of the island by supporting research and ensuring that the results are disseminated.	Specific programme developed under research framework.	2026.	Amber
<b>A11.8</b>	Research programmes will be staggered to prevent programmes from occurring simultaneously within the same location on Sceilg Mhichíl.	NPWS/OPW to continue to assess appropriate timings of any research to avoid disturbance to the SCI species.	Ongoing	Blue

gov.ie

The National Monuments Service



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland