

Site Testing Report

K00243720

On deployment of my News Website for Evolving Web Technologies to Github, as part of the H.Dip in Creative Multimedia Programming, I tested the site under a number of headings, as outlined in this document.

Documentation testing

I first compared the requirements of the project brief to the overall finished product to see if they aligned. The website is coded in HTML5, with the contained articles following the structure of headline, text, image, author and date using the correct syntax.

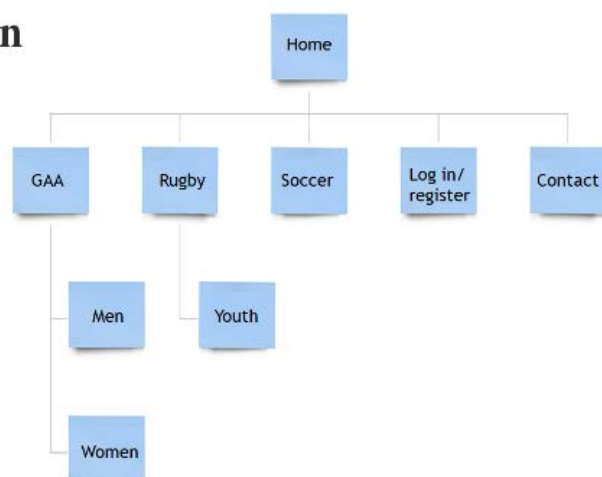
The site is coded as mobile-first, so all base code is for 380px. There are three break points at 540px, 980px and 1200px, as per the requirement of the brief. The max-width is set to 1360px to keep the overall shape of the site intact at higher screen widths.

Included across the site are branding, navigation, a search bar, footer and ads, with contents including a homepage and login/sign-up areas, along with the ability to view full articles and all news. To this end, the requirements of the brief have been met.

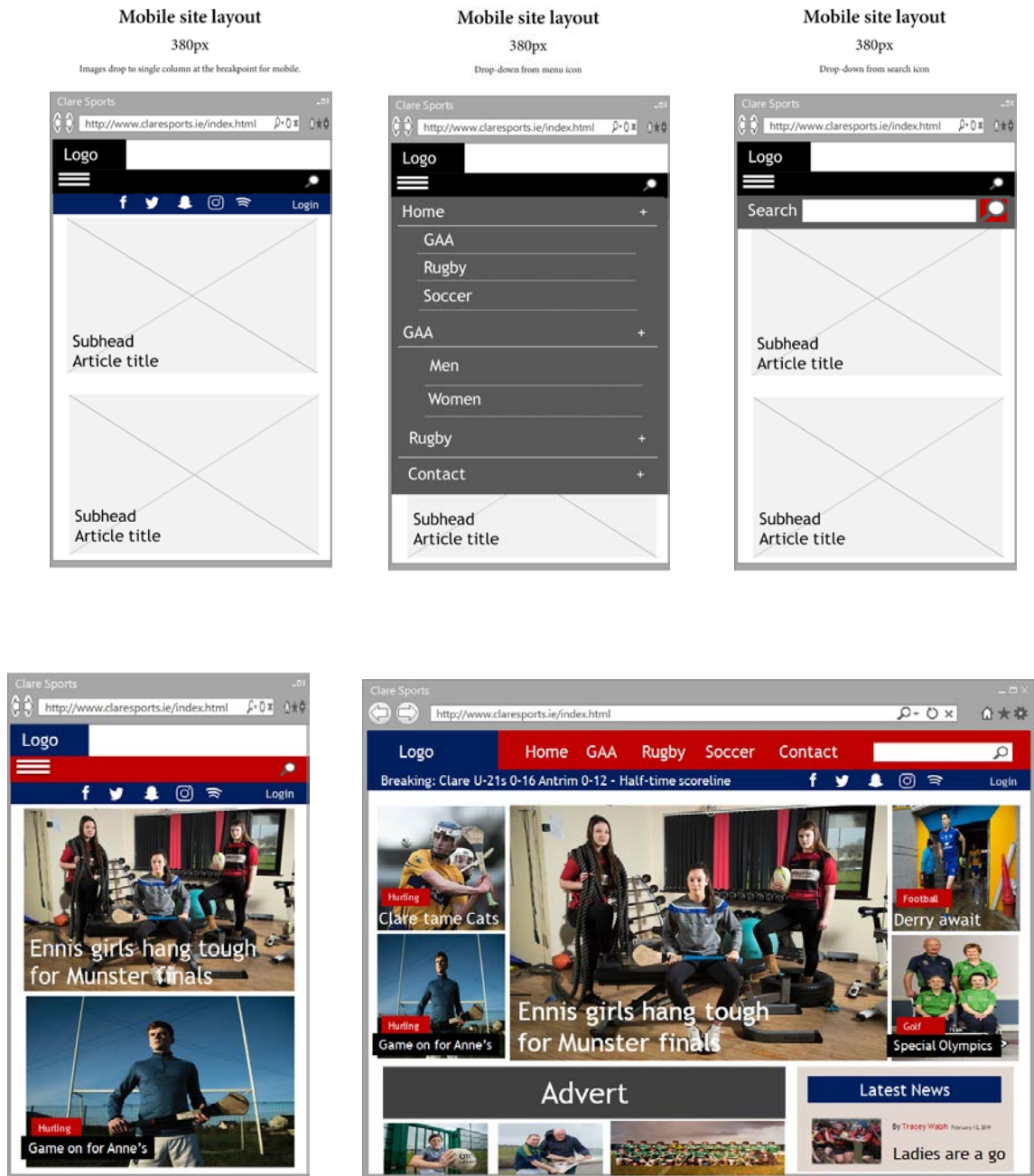
I also revisited my wireframes and Photoshop files submitted at the design phase to see how closely the final product resembles them.

There was a slight change from the original navigation plan in that I excluded a sub-head under rugby (youth) but added another button in the menu for All News.

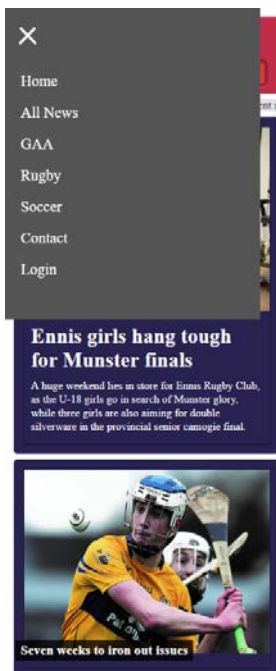
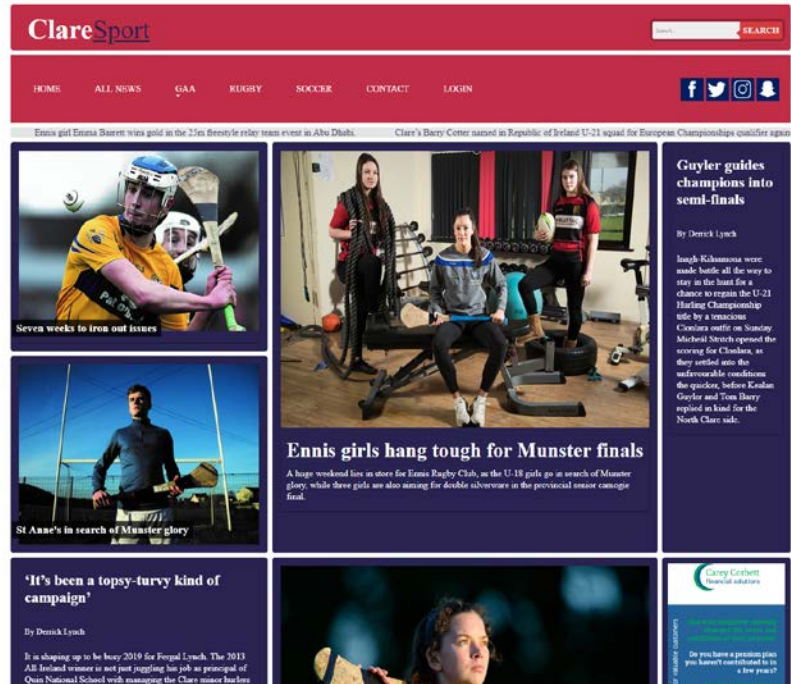
Navigation



There were some changes to the overall design of the site but, for the most part, it is fairly close to my original plans. The biggest changes I made to the navigation on the original mobile site plans is that the drop-down no longer has sub-menus, the search bar is no longer a drop-down menu but rather part of the header and the social media icons are now in the footer. The desktop site has changed in that I used a portrait advert instead of landscape, meaning the grids are shaped in a different pattern as a result. I also moved the 'Latest News' section up to the header area and make it a ticker tape instead.



The original design plans

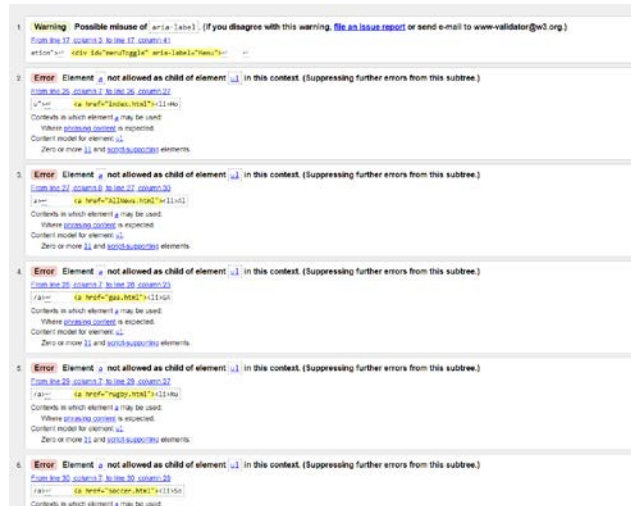


The website

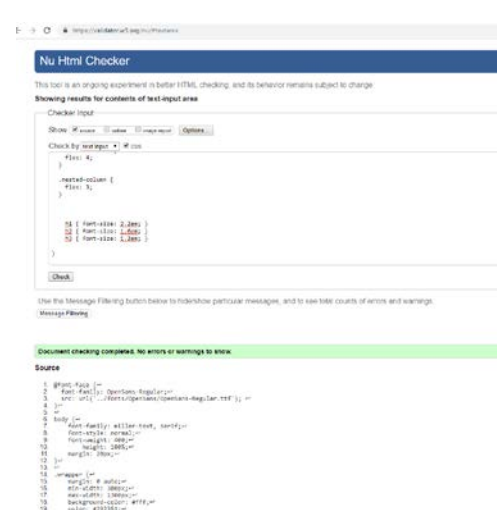
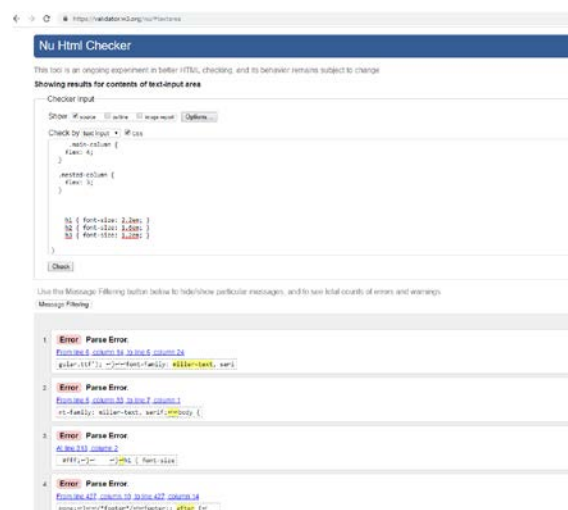
Functionality testing – Validation, Links, Forms

Validation

I validated all of my website pages' code on <http://validator.w3.org/> and I was fairly pleased that there were few errors in my HTML. I could easily fix most of the errors, except in the navigation hamburger menu. I followed a tutorial on the creation of hamburger menus on Medium (as outlined in my Readme) and, unfortunately, in the validation process, there were a number of errors in the code. I tried a number of ways to try to fix these errors but time was against me and I had to revert to the original coding. In a future process, I would endeavour to fix these errors in full.



My CSS, on the other hand, had a number of syntax errors but these were easily rectified and so the site has a clean bill of health there.



I also created a sitemap in XML, to verify it would be searchable for future versions of the site.

The screenshot shows the XML-Sitemaps.com interface for a generated sitemap. The main heading is 'Sitemap Details' with the URL <https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/>. Below this, there's a 'What's next?' section with a button to 'DOWNLOAD YOUR XML SITEMAP FILE' and instructions to upload it to the website root and then open Google Search console. A 'Sitemap Preview' table lists various URLs with their last modification dates and priorities. To the right, a 'SEM Report for K00243720.GITHUB.IO domain' shows statistics: Created on 29 March 2019, 13:36; Processing time 0:00:03s; Pages indexed 33 (crawled: 33); Pages size 0.30Mb; Broken links: None. Below the preview is a 'Feedback' section with a 'SEND IT VIA EMAIL' button. At the bottom, there's an 'Other Downloads' section with a 'DOWNLOAD ALL SITEMAPS IN A ZIP FILE' button and an email subscription form.

URL	Last Mod	Priority
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	1.00
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/index.html	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	0.80
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/AllNews.html	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	0.80
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/gaa.html	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	0.80
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/rugby.html	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	0.80
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/soccer.html	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	0.80
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/contact.html	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	0.80
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/Login.html	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	0.80
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/article1.html	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	0.80
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/article16.html	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	0.80
https://k00243720.github.io/NewsWebsite/article17.html	2019-03-29T14:42:13+00:00	0.80

Links

I tested all links across the site to see each are working correctly. There are two links that do not have valid paths on the Login page. The 'Forgot Username/Password' and 'Submit' links are not operational as I do not have these aspects working yet, as they will be completed in my Advanced Web Programming project.

I do have pages made with confirmation messages to display for submitting the contact and registrations forms.



Forms

The forms created for the register, contact and login pages all have internal HTML validation applied. Again, as mentioned, there is a confirmation message displayed for the submit buttons.

While more stringent form validation using php/javascript will be performed in the next part of the project for Advanced Web Programming, I did consider this need and others, including the ability to submit/edit/delete news items, in my design and I think it will be easily applicable.

Performance testing

I used two sites for performance testing, www.dareboost.com and gtmetrix.com. My page speed is poor overall, with both sites highlighting issues with images. I will have to look at this again, as I had cut images to large and thumbnails using 1024px width at 72dpi as my guideline. This is clearly not enough however, so I will change this. I lost points also to do with security issues and a lack of metadata. The main issue is that the page weight is too high at almost 4.2MB.



Usability testing

After I had deployed the site, I realised that the register page is only accessible through the login page, so this could be something to rectify for the future. I think, for usability purposes, there should also be a link to register in the main navigation so it is easily viewable.

Otherwise, all pages of the site are clearly marked and easy to use. Each story is clickable so there is no use of buttons in the articles, which I think makes it easier to use, especially for anyone with dexterity or sight issues. The buttons on the form pages are large and coloured for ease of use.

I optimised this site for mobile first responsive, as the initial design idea was for a user that is 'on the go' and wants to access real-time updated results and reports from a phone. To this end, I am very happy with the responsiveness and look of the mobile site. The larger break points were not as much of a priority in the design but are extremely necessary and while I am happy with the aesthetics and functionality of the desktop site, there are some concerns I have regarding the tablet size. There are a few issues with images that are too large and text not fully aligning as I would like it to. This is something to revisit in the future.

There is one area I might change if I was doing it again. I chose not to use a full navigation menu on the form pages as I wanted a clean design with lots of white space. I added a 'Go back to home' link under each submit button as the method to get back to the home page if the user decides not to follow through on submitting the form. The home function is also available in the header and footer logos. On testing the site however, I think this full navigation should be put back in for ease of access.

Overall, there are no grammar and spelling mistakes, as I ran it through a checker, images are placed correctly within grids, the colour palette is adhered to across the site, font sizes are pretty standard throughout and the information is displayed in a logical structure with informative content.