

UKRIGS Newsletter



June/July 2004, Volume 2, Number 1



Welton le Wold field visit with members examining a sample of the aravels. Lincolnshire RIGS

Editorial

Welcome to the new look UKRIGS Newsletter. Apologies for the late run on but I think all the gremlins are now sorted out! With this new format there is a greater need for photos from RIGS sites and/or groups with short articles to promote their activities.

Lincolnshire RIGS leads the way in this issue (*see photograph above*) with activity at Welton le Wold, where there are glacial deposits, erratic stones and landforms. The above gravel was excavated from 7 metres below ground level as part of English Nature's 'Facelift' grant scheme. This site is open to group visits as part of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

The Abberley and Malvern Hills become the 2nd Geopark in the UK in October 2003. Congratulations to all those involved. The launch on 12th - 13th April 2004 in Ledbury, was celebrated by a series of events

throughout May and June. Further details can be found at www.worc.ac.uk/geopark

The Seventh UKRIGS annual conference 'Broadening Horizons', will be held at the Dudley Museum and Art Gallery from September 2nd to 4th 2004, with a full programme of field excursions and workshops. (See the booking sheet and promotional flier with this newsletter).

One again it is your newsletter and we all need your news! Remember, if your RIGS group has a newsletter put us on your circulation list and we will endeavour to abstract news. Next issue is out the end of September and the deadline is 20th September. Tel 01244 375444 ext 3051 and leave a message or e-mail ukrigs@yahoo.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you.
Editor

Project officer Report

The last few months have involved hectic behind-the-scenes work, as we have tried to get all the new and 'revamped' communication projects together at the same time. As is commonly the case in this day and age, technology has delayed us.

We are certainly well on the way to our new web site, which we had hoped to have up and running by now. It is not at the stage where it is practical to use

it to replace the existing web site, but we have nearly resolved all the problems and expect to have it up and running before the UKRIGS Conference in September.

You will note that this newsletter is in a new format, which has been redesigned from the feedback of our members to better meet your needs. Let us know what you think!

These two initiatives are part of the UKRIGS Action Plan and the UKRIGS Communication Strategy. Both of these documents will enable the UKRIGS Executive Committee to focus effort in the same direction to support its members. Watch this space as UKRIGS follows through with other new initiatives throughout the year.

It has been good to hear that a number of areas are or have re-established RIGS Groups. Some of these include Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Manchester.

I am still interested in knowing when your scheduled meetings are, so I can plan to visit you, and am also happy to meet representatives of Groups outside of scheduled RIGS meetings, if I am in the area. The more feedback I get, the better able I will be to help you achieve your RIGS Group goals.

All the best!
Elaine Tilson
UKRIGS Project Officer

External Consultations of UKRIGS

JNCC/EN Common Standards for Monitoring Designated Sites – Guidelines

UKRIGS Executive Committee member John Reynolds attended the 19th February launch meeting at Peterborough. There is only one section on Geological / Earth Science Sites in the guidelines. [We sure have an issue with terminology!]. John asked about the number of geologists available to monitor Earth Science Sites. Apparently there are few, but there may be an opportunity for RIGS Groups to become involved in the task at some future date.

Tel :01733-562626 for copy or download the guidance from: www.jncc.gov.uk/

UKRIGS/National Trust Project

NT Project officer John Macadam's report has been sent to John Harvey at the National Trust. UKRIGS has been asked to provide contacts of key RIGS Groups in each NT Region to liaise with NT Regional Conservation Officers. If your RIGS Group already has links with your NT Regional Office please let us know. Contact Elaine at UKRIGS@yahoo.co.uk

Good Practice for Stakeholder Engagement in the Aggregates Sector.

This Guidance was written by the Environment Council consultants as a MIRO/ALSF project, now completed. This means exactly what it says -

no chance of revisions or second edition - it was a project, now completed!! John Reynolds had successfully responded on behalf of UKRIGS in the early stages of this process. He succeeded in including references to Geodiversity Action Plans (GAPs) & the need to consult local RIGS Groups in the restoration of workings etc. John also attended a launch meeting in Manchester on 18th March 2004. Others were held in Newcastle, Cambridge, Nottingham attended by Ian Thomas from the National Stone Centre, Leeds & Birmingham.

Tel: 020 7836 2626 or www.the-environment-council.org.uk for copies.

AmeyMouchel Cultural Heritage Strategy for Area 9 [SW Midlands]

John Reynolds followed up an e-mail sent to Staffs RIGS Group and became involved in this consultation with the road builders. Their Strategy now includes reference to RIGS Groups as part of the Company consultation process prior to, and during road building programmes.

These were included in the draft seen by the Highways Agency (HA) & presumably acceptable to them! The paragraph on RIGS mentions the four criteria for site selection: Education, Science, Historic & Aesthetic value. [Has anyone any connections with the HA to follow this through to other companies?]

House of Commons All-Party Parliamentary Earth Sciences Group

Cynthia Burek UKRIGS Chair and John Reynolds attended the 16th March 2004 meeting, which was a presentation to MPs on Mineral Industry Research Organisation (MIRO) ALSF projects. Leaflets on the Geodiversity Audit of 16 active quarries in Devon and other reports are available from:

www.miro.co.uk

The 18th May 2004 meeting, also attended by Cynthia Burek and John Reynolds, was a presentation on current developments in Earth science education, led by Chris King, Director of the Earth Science Education Unit (ESEU) and Acting Director, Science Learning Centre West Midlands [based at Keele University]. The details are reported on page 4.

Gatsby Foundation bid

This is a bid by ESEU to support a scoping exercise to develop a "science in an Earth context" GCSE course, based on "Global, Local, Individual Science" [GLIS]. This is supported by the Directors of the Science Learning Centres.

www.earthscienceeducation.com/
www.sciencelearningcentres.org.uk

www.esta-uk.org

Well done, Chris and the many who are involved. John Reynolds [like Chris] is also interested in developing field-teaching skills for science teachers. But that is another story for another day.

Local News

DEFRA – replacement for PPG 9 is PPS 9

This will be called Planning Policy Statement No. 9 – ‘Biodiversity and Geological Conservation’ with consultation expected in the first half of the year. Nice catchy title – somebody is listening after all!

Staffordshire Landowners of RIGS sites

Staffordshire RIGS have designed an information leaflet for landowners or managers with an important Geological site on their property. This leaflet provides a range of contextual information about RIGS and is a great exemplar for other RIGS groups. For more information on how to get a copy visit <http://www.sgeoap.org.uk/> and follow the link for Staffordshire RIGS. You can also view the Staffordshire Geodiversity Action Plan at the same web address.

Cheshire region LGAP

This LGAP goes from strength to strength. Over 50 members of the Cheshire County Council planning department listened to a talk by Cynthia Burek on the importance of partnership within an LGAP. Implications from research conducted under the banner of the LGAP and UCC on the effect of age on landscape appreciation showed that leaflets are high on all age agendas but media low. As expected animals but not plants, rocks or fossils had high conservation value.

English Nature Report No 523

“The use of geological sites by schools”, prepared by the National Stone Centre, ISSN 0967-876X, is now available. It contains the key words and concepts for the different Key Stages of the National Curriculum and is invaluable for showing teachers at all levels how applicable Earth Science education is to them.

For further details, go to www.english-nature.org.uk

Name Change

The East Herts Mineral and Fossil Club has changed its name and is now the East Herts Geology Club.

For more information go to www.ehgc.org.uk

Geology and Landscape in the Welsh Borders

A three-day ‘expedition’ tour is now available between Ludlow and Abergavenny and aims to follow in the footsteps of the 19th century geologist Roderick Murchison. Indeed a new book has just been published called *King of Siluria* by John Morton 2004 price £12.99. ISBN 0954682904

Who would have thought geology could be so mainstream?

For more information visit www.marchestourstalk.co.uk

LGAP Information

Information on the 6 published LGAPs is soon to be available on the web under www.lgap.org

New Trails

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust, who produce the Explorer series of geology and landscape trail guides, have increased the number to 8, with the publication of ‘Wyche and Purlieu’ a walking trail from the Precambrian across the full Silurian and ‘The Malvern Hills’ a driving / cycling trail. Priced at £1.95 each they are great value. For more information on how to obtain a copy visit www.worc.ac.uk/ehtr

GeoSuffolk: Suffolk RIGS

A trilogy of ‘free’ colour geological centred leaflets are now available from all Suffolk museums, (those with geology) and tourist information centres. The first is a walking trail around ‘The Deben Estuary’, the second ‘Beneath your feet’ covers the 80 million year-old story, of Suffolk’s landscape, rocks and fossils and the third explores the ‘Orwell valley’. For further information telephone the Ipswich Museum on 01473 433550.

NEWRIGS

Done and at the printers is the next bilingual ‘Walking through the past’ trail, this time on Wrexham. St Asaph with one of the smallest Cathedrals in Wales, is the next town trail scheduled to be finished.

Gwynedd & Mon RIGS

2 new bilingual leaflets soon off the press are Conway and Caernarvon.



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We're on the Web!
See us at : www.ukrigs.org.uk

News Extras

(... continued from page 2)
**Current Developments in
Earth Science Education**

The House of Commons May meeting presented current developments in Earth Science Education, led by Chris King. He began by outlining the work of ESEU, supported by the Earth Science Teachers' Association [ESTA] and funded by the oil industry [UK Offshore Operators Association]. ESEU presents Earth science workshops free to secondary school science departments through 37 trained facilitators in England and Wales, and will be launching in Scotland at the ESTA conference in September 2004. Several of the ESEU facilitators are also heavily involved in RIGS.

UKRIGS actions

The UKRIGS Executive Committee has approved unanimously the Action Plan and Communication Strategy at the July 2004 executive meeting.
These very detailed

documents will help forward the aims of UKRIGS. There are some minor changes to the constitution to clear up ambiguities that have been identified. Thus an SGM will be called before the next AGM. Details are included with this newsletter. Thanks to Derek France for producing this new style newsletter. We have a new editor starting in September.

STOP PRESS

Project Officer Elaine Tilson is returning to Australia for medical reasons in September 2004. The RIGS movement owes her a large debt of gratitude for all her hard work. Thank you Elaine.

Thus we will need a new officer on a short-term 6 month contract starting September 2004. If you are interested see web site/ insert in this newsletter.

Cynthia Burek is finishing her term of office at the AGM due to medical reasons.

Quarterly Photograph Competition

Winners of the last competition are Steve Brown and Neil Turner who correctly guessed I was at the summit of Snowdon.



Where is Derek this Quarter?

e-mail with the right answer
d.france@chester.ac.uk

Calendar of Events

If you want your events included send them to ukrigs@yahoo.co.uk and label them newsletter

Bucks Earth Heritage Group have an interesting talk and field meeting listed below

Prehistoric Bucks – dinosaurs and sea monsters. A lunchtime gallery talk at the County Museum, Aylesbury, 12.30 – 1.00. Wednesday 18th August 2004.

Afternoon walk on Ivinghoe Beacon looking for clues and signs of the Ice Age. A joint meeting with the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society's Natural History Section led by George Taylor. Meet 2.30pm at Roadside lay-by on B489 opposite C road to Ivinghoe Aston (SP963127). Saturday 4th September 2004

Seventh UKRIGS Annual Conference. 'Broadening Horizons' Thursday 2nd to Saturday 4th September 2004. Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, St. James's Road, Dudley. Further details Contact Alan Cutler acutler@btconnect.com (see insert)