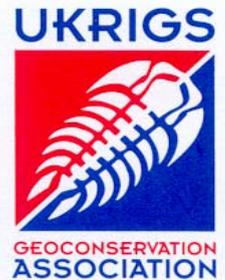


UKRIGS NEWSLETTER



Summer 2005, Vol. 3, No. 2

**By RIGS for RIGS: Keeping you up to date with RIGS nationally and in your area.
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Editorial

Hello again,
With the longer days we are all busy in the field. I wish you all good weather. This issue seems to have a lot of information about the Scottish RIGS movement. This is good to see as many of us do not get north of the border very often. I have to say personally that I have recently been to the Shetlands for the first time and while it is a long way at least from North Wales! I really enjoyed the scenery, archaeology and people. I plan to either go back or to the Orkneys. From Shetlands I flew on business to the West coast of Ireland and again a first for me to go to County Mayo and Northern Galway. Fantastic geology and landscapes. I have been very lucky lately to see these treeless landscapes where the topography hits you in the face so to speak!

Work progresses in the northwest with our LGAPs. In Cheshire we are busy evaluating our original objectives. We have had two meetings so far with our partners and it is looking good. We hope that our website will go live soon. It is fantastic. Lancashire have also published their LGAP and we hope to cooperate closely in the near future with the setting up of the NW RIGS partnership. I would like to pay tribute at this point to my assistant editor Victoria Page for all her editorial help. She is not a geologist but we hope to convert her soon.

Thank you Vic.
Good Rigging,

Cynthia Burek
Editor



Geoconservation Commission News Cynthia Burek

- The latest draft of the Defra document needs comments in by 10th June.
- We are assured that PPS9 will be out before the Summer recess of Parliament.
- 77 delegates attended the York Stone conference from many different associations.
- On 01/01/07 English Nature, Countryside Association and Rural development service will unite under the name of Natural England.
- The Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund has £2 ½ million to distribute in 2005 and in 2006.
- The State of Nature – Geodiversity report by English Nature is due to be finished by July 2005. We await this document with interest.
- At the last meeting there was much discussion about export licenses. Also the value of a Treasury Act. Any comments to feed back?

Education Resources for Earth Science and Industry Conference.

The All Party Parliamentary group for Earth Sciences and the Earth Science Education Forum for England and Wales first annual meeting was attended on behalf of UKRIGS by Peter Jones and Dr. Cynthia Burek. Recommendations from the conference include:

- Setting up a curriculum and discipline development advisory body for Earth Sciences.
- More women into Earth Science.
- Courses meeting industrial needs better.
- Recruitment & Retention- implement the EU Water Framework directive.
- Need skilled workforce in mining and quarrying, oil and gas, sustainable and alternative energy industries.

Further information from www.esef.org.uk
or email esef@iom3.org.uk



Scotland

Geology Festival

Mike Browne

The Scottish Geology Festival, 'Rock On 2005' is on again this year with events throughout September 2005. To enter new events or see what is already on offer go to the web pages for www.Scottishgeology.com. A printed booklet of events will be issued nearer the time. Note the web pages can accept late offerings of events, although if received after the end of May-early June will not feature in booklet. If enough RIGS groups enter events, UKRIGS' logo will be on the publicity materials.

First Scottish RIGS Newsletter

The first newsletter aimed at the RIGS movement in Scotland has been launched Summer 2005. It is full of the activities of the 6 groups north of the border. For more information email Mike Brown maeb@bgs.ac.uk

Local Sites Guidance

In Scotland too they are busy discussing the Scottish draft of the Local Sites guidance. We wish them luck and hope it takes them a slightly shorter time than it has south of the border.

Scottish Local Sites Review Group

The Scottish Executive asked SNH to set up a working group to prepare a draft consultation on non-statutory local sites (e.g. SINC, SIN, LWS, LNCS, RIGS etc). The working group includes representatives from SNH, COSLA, RTPi, SWT, LINK and BGS. Four meetings have been held with a draft document written for release for public consultation by July. The next committee meeting is on 3rd August prior to the public workshop, at COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) in Edinburgh on the 29th of August with public consultation closing in mid September. The draft document has been seen by our Executive Committee. Mike Browne is on the core committee representing BGS.

Fife

Guides and Histories

We are pleased to see in the 'Natural Heritage designation in Fife – a guide 2005' that 4 RIGS sites are listed alongside SSSIs. Well done Fife. Fife RIGS have also produced a joint leaflet called Baked, Buckled and Frozen (sounds like a recipe) – a Rock history of the Lomond Hills, available from Fife RIGS, maeb@bgs.ac.uk.

Lothian and Borders Environmental Fair

Six volunteers from the Lothian and Borders RIGS Group took part in the Environment Fair organised by the National Trust for Scotland at their Newhailes House by Edinburgh on Sunday 15th May. On a gloriously sunny day over 1000 visitors took the opportunity to learn more about their local environment. With the help of the British Geological Survey who provided many of the display specimens of local fossils and rocks, visitors learned about the local geodiversity of the Lothians and City of Edinburgh using our posters and leaflets as pointers as to where to see local geology. A key attraction was the rock matching game for children.



Geodiversity Project

The first Geodiversity project is being launched in West Lothian and there is a proposal for a 3-year Scottish RIGS Project officer. This is being discussed between UKRIGS and SNH.

L&B and the Girl Guides

Lothian and Borders have published their third leaflet jointly with the Girl Guides called Belhaven Bay. This is part of a five year funded association between these two groups along with SNH. Available from labrigs@bgs.ac.uk.

Cheshire

New Trails

Cynthia Burek

Cheshire RIGS has been successful in gaining funding from the Cheshire Community Strategy Innovation Fund for producing two new trails for Malpas and Nantwich in the southern part of Cheshire. This was applied for under the Cheshire region LGAP Partnership.

Wales

Geodiversity Audit

Bill Fitches

Central Wales has been successful in getting a substantial grant from the Welsh Assembly Government to follow the example set by North Wales, and undertake a geodiversity audit. This is being led by Bill Fitches as the project officer.

Dudley

Return of the Dudley Bug

Graham Worton

As many know, the Dudley bug, a trilobite, was stolen from the Dudley Museum and then returned the next day. Two 14 year olds were the culprits and one certainly has been 'put away'. It is interesting to note the enormous local interest that this theft generated including TV coverage. Most clouds have a silver lining and there are now discussions about reinstating the Dudley bug on the town coat of arms.

Photo' Competition

Kevin Clements

Wrens Nest through the seasons photographic competition, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve. The 12 best entries will adorn the commemorative calendar. For the full entry rules, please contact Kevin on 01384 814189, download them from www.dudley.gov.uk/about/environ/country/rules or obtain a copy from your library. Closing date for entries is August 31st 2005.

Torbay

LGAP Progress

Mel Border

Torbay is on the way to completing its LGAP. Well done!

Dorset

Guides to Geological Walks

Charles Jackson

DIGS (Dorset RIGS Group) have published the second of two volumes in their series of guides to geological walks visiting the more spectacular RIGS sites within the County. Publication was funded by a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative Fund on condition that the guides would form the subject matter for a series of lectures and guided tours for the general public covering the routes described, in order to increase the public's awareness of the rich geological heritage contained within the County. Copies of the guides are available from DIGS at £3.95 per volume plus £1.00 p&p, E-mail to c.j.jackson@talk21.com, or phone 01305-773400.

Gloucestershire Cotswolds

LGAP Progress

Dave Owen

The Gloucestershire Cotswolds LGAP is proceeding well. The desk based site audit is complete and a chart of all the sites on our database is constructed, cross-referencing each site to the stratigraphy and features represented. Fieldwork on these sites to establish their current condition is ongoing and the potential for further developing geodiversity in the area is being investigated. Surveys of people's awareness and use of geodiversity, including landowners, educational establishments, local people, tourists and even the Scouts, already shows the old problem of lack of awareness rather than lack of interest. I have recently started work on a draft layout for the documents which will include the geodiversity audit, background to the area and the project and the plan itself. It seems likely that there will be a couple of versions of the LGAP, the full document with all non-data protected information and a summary document concentrating on all the important points. The launch of the finished product will be held at our offices, or more accurately in the Tithe Barn next door, in early October.

Editor

It seems LGAPS, like Geoparks, are springing up all over the place. This must be good news for RIGS groups.

UKRIGS ALSF Education Pilot Project

This project, in collaboration with our partners in the Earth Science Education Unit (ESEU) and the National Stone Centre (NSC), has succeeded in producing high quality Earth Science field teaching activities at four former aggregates sites in Derbyshire and Staffordshire. The materials are devised to address requirements of the National Curriculum at 7-11yrs, 11-14yrs and 14-16yrs. Earth Sciences On-Site has been used as a working title for the project and the materials are available on the Education section of the UKRIGS website: www.ukrigs.org.uk.

RIGS and ESTA members and their friends are encouraged to evaluate the resources ready for discussion at the September conference, and suggest sites for future use. See insert for further details and send responses to education@ukrigs.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

■ 6th June 2005.

BCGG meeting on the Wenlock Limestone is postponed and is no longer on this date.

■ 7th July 2005

The 2005 AGM of the British Institute for Geological Conservation, 2pm University of Bristol, Dept of Geology. Two talks are included – ‘The development of the South Wales Coalfield Geopark’ by Ben Evans (National Museums & Galleries of Wales) and ‘Capel Horeb Quarrey’ by Barry Thomas (University of Aberystwyth).

■ 31st August 2005

Closing date for entry into the Wrens Nest photographic competition. (see page 3).

■ 16th – 18th September 2005

ESTA Conference and UKRIGS AGM (17th) at the University of Derby. Elections for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and executive committee. Details to be sent out separately.

■ September 2005

Scottish Geology Festival. Contact Scottish Natural Heritage for further details.

New Publications

■ Stone In Wales

Minerals, Heritage and Conservation. Papers from the Welsh Stone Conference 2002. Published by CADW 2005, ISBN 1857602218.

■ Carved Stones

Scottish Executive Policy and Guidance. Published by Historic Scotland 2005. ISBN 1904966136

■ www.mineralsuk.com

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Dr Ken Addison – Gwynedd & Mon RIGS
Mike Browne – Lothian & Borders RIGS
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Dr Derek France – Cheshire RIGS
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Co-opted

Craig Slawson
Dr Tom Hose

Acting Secretary: Dr Cheryl Jones
Education Officer Rick Ramsdale
Project Officer: Dr Pauline Jones



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It is always interesting and enjoyable to read about RIGS groups and their work. To share your news and events in this quarterly newsletter, please contact Dr Cynthia Burek, RIGS Newsletter Editor, c.burek@chester.ac.uk or Vic Page, Assistant RIGS Newsletter Editor, v.page@chester.ac.uk. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and unless stated, do not represent the opinions of UKRIGS.