

UKRIGS NEWSLETTER



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

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Editorial

As the summer holidays draw to a close we look forward as geologists to less vegetation around and renewed rock views. The summer months have seen much activity in RIGS notification, fieldwork and meetings. We look forward to a good annual conference in Derby linking up with the ESTA organisation which focuses so admirably on education at all levels. We will be exposed to new opportunities for discussion and debate on conserving geodiversity and the programme looks really good. Plenty for everyone. I will not be there unfortunately as I will be looking at the rocks of Lanzarote but my

spirit will be with you. The publication of the new long awaited PPS9 should give many local authorities food for thought and I hope that the RIGS groups will be able to take the opportunities offered. Several LGAPs are nearing completion including Gloucestershire Cotswolds and Anglesey. There are now new developments in different types of GAPs and the first company GAP also nears completion.

Have a good conference,

Cynthia



UKRIGS 8th Annual Conference Earth Sciences and the Countryside

This year, the UKRIGS annual conference, in conjunction with The Earth Science Teachers Association (ESTA) Conference, takes place at the University of Derby, on the 16th – 18th September 2005.

(Picture of Derby University, by Derbyshire online.)



Conserving Geodiversity is the topic for 16th with a full day's programme and an evening lecture with wine reception. On 17th, Earth Sciences and the Countryside are discussed, with a large selection of workshops and seminars, followed by the Conference dinner. On the 18th, field trips are bound for The National Stone Centre, Carsington Reservoir, Black Rocks, the Peak District Mining Museum, Cauldon Low Cement Works, Brown End Quarry, Ashover, Eakring, Duckmanton and Cresswell Crags.

Proceedings from the 7th Annual Conference held last year in Dudley, will be available shortly, and the next issue of the UKRIGS Newsletter intends to contain a short report from the UKRIGS 8th Annual Conference.

Please direct questions about the conference to Linda Marshall, Conferences Department, University of Derby. E: L.Marshall@derby.ac.uk
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PPS9 Published

From the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

The long awaited and very important Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 9 was published on 16th August 2005 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Planning Minister, Baroness Andrews. The Statement entitled: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, is supported by a joint ODPM- DEFRA circular. The new policy statement sets out the major role the planning system has to play in conserving our natural heritage, on designated sites and in the wider environment. The circular provides guidance to local authorities on the sites and species that receive statutory protection under national and international law. Later this year, ODPM will also publish a good practice guide to accompany PPS9. This therefore covers both SSSIs and RIGS. Together, these two documents replace Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 9: Nature

conservation, published in October 1994. Key features of PPS9 that will help safeguard biodiversity and geological features include: Local authorities should maintain up to date information on the environmental characteristics of their area, including identifying areas of ancient woodland and other important habitats that are not already designated; Plan policies should aim to maintain, enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. They should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity or geological features in and around new developments; planning decisions should aim to prevent harm to biodiversity and geological interests. Where significant harm cannot be prevented, adequately mitigated against or compensated for, then planning permission should be refused. Further information is available on

www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0172

'Involving people in geodiversity'

Geoconservation Commission

A two-day workshop, entitled 'Involving people in geodiversity' was held to mark the end of the 'Earth heritage: World heritage' conference in Wareham, Dorset in September 2004. The workshop discussed how we involve people in geodiversity and provided an opportunity for delegates to share experience and best practice through the presentation and

discussion of case studies and examples. A short guidance, based on the discussions and conclusions, and aimed at a wide audience from the policy maker to the general public has now been published and is available free of charge. For further information visit:

www.geoconservation.com/conference/followup/weekend. To receive a free copy of the published guidance, please contact GeoConference@jncc.gov.uk

Anglesey LGAP

The Cheshire region LGAP is mentoring the new Anglesey LGAP. A meeting is planned for 7th September at which we hope to share our experiences and learn together.

Cotswold LGAP

Gloucester Cotswolds Local Geodiversity Action Plan to be launched on 7th Oct 2005 at the Tithe Barn, Brockworth Gloucester. This has been supported by MIRO, IHS Energy, ODPM, Geology Trusts and Cotswolds AONB. This will be the 8th LGAP to reach publication stage since 2003. There are others which are embedded in LBAPs and as part of quarry audits.

First cLGAP

Cynthia Burek

The first Company Local Geodiversity Action Plan (cLGAP) is to be presented to the steering committee on 4th October in London. This committee is headed up by Capita Symmonds – a project management consultancy based in Glasgow. Prof Cynthia Burek is on this committee for her expertise on the CrLGAP and UKRIGS." The draft will then be amended and become the first published cLGAP in the UK.

European Geopark bid and Lgap for Torbay

Mel Border

Under the heading of "Coral Coast" The Torbay Heritage Forum is developing an application for European Geopark status for Torbay, to reflect the national and international importance of the geology of the area and to develop sustainable tourism. In addition, a Local Geodiversity Action Plan for Torbay is currently under development. In order to best support this work we would be very grateful if you could spare about 10 minutes of your time to answer a number of questions on the questionnaire, available at

www.ukrigs.org.uk/public/coralcoast and email the completed form back to the email address below. This will be a great help as we currently hold no data re-groups using the sites. I am endeavouring to send this out to as many organisations/people as possible. If you can help by forwarding this to other interested parties, or perhaps by putting an article in a magazine or journal then your help would be very much appreciated. Mel Border, Education Department, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Cockington Court, Cockington, Torquay, Devon. TQ2 6XA (tel. 01803 606035) e-mail coralcoast@countryside-trust.org.uk

West Yorkshire RIGS Group

Alison Quarterman - Chair

The West Yorkshire RIGS Group is small but active, particularly in the Kirklees area. More than 60 sites were surveyed in the five districts of West Yorkshire and have been recorded in digital form. Details of the RIGS sites have been circulated to planning officers of the five authorities in booklet form but it would be a good idea to send digital copies to each authority. Neil Aitkenhead and Ian Chisholm have checked the RIGS in Bradford and Kirklees districts for geological accuracy. Offers from professional geologists to check the information we have for sites in Wakefield, Calderdale and Leeds would be welcome. Other projects cannot be started because of lack of manpower but there is plenty of scope for managing other sites if we can interest others in geoconservation in West Yorkshire. The group has worked hard to complete the Castle Hill, Huddersfield, geological trails leaflet this year. The leaflet was largely completed last summer and funding has now been obtained from Awards For All. We hope that the leaflet will be published in September. We ran six events for Yorkshire Geology

Month, which included urban walks in Huddersfield and Horbury. Four walks of geological and landscape interest in the Holme valley took place and there was a talk on the geology of the Huddersfield area. We had a total of 80 participants for these events. The website www.wyrigs.org.uk has been updated by Richard Bell and we plan to add more information to it in due course.

Earth Sciences Certificate

Runs in Coventry at the University of Warwick this year, as part of their open studies certificate scheme. An introduction to the basic principles of geology and environment, including earthquakes, volcanoes and climate change. It has a strong practical fieldwork element with rocks, minerals and fossils as well as map work and landscape interpretation. The three, ten week modules are: Earth Science, How the Earth Works and Geology and Scenery. £20 per term. Phone 024 7657 3739 for further details. www.warwick.ac.uk .

Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark

As well as celebrating international Geopark week in June this year, the park has secured funding to pilot an LGAP. Many guides for walkers and cyclists are being developed

alongside rock and fossil roadshows and a recreational strategy aided by the Centre for Rural Research at University College Worcester.

Publications

NEWRIGS

Walking Through The Past – Flint

A geological trail around the medieval town of Flint, taking in the building stones and their past. A good reflection of the local geology with some exotic rock types thrown in. Email c.burek@chester.ac.uk for a copy.

NEWRIGS

Walking Through The Past- Ruthin

This medieval town, in a fault ridden valley, contains some spectacular red Triassic desert sandstone among the locally quarried limestone and Welsh slate. Email c.burek@chester.ac.uk for a copy.

Cheshire RIGS & CrLGAP

Walking Through The Past – Nantwich

Built on a glacial till, above a 200 million year old salt bed, Nantwich boasts an excellent variety of sandstones and a mounted glacial erratic! Phone 01244 402015 for a copy.

Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group

The University of Warwick

An A5 booklet identifying the geology and topography of the Warwick university campus, including the visible Carboniferous rock formations. Phone 02476 523533 for a copy.

Geo-Suffolk

The Deben Estuary

This geo-trail includes a clay brickpit and Roman cement kilns. Deben market town was also home of S.V.Wood, the parent of drift research. Phone 01284 762218 for a copy.

Geo-Suffolk

Beneath Your Feet

A well presented overview of the geology of Suffolk, with a list of local geo-collections and displays. Phone 01284 762218 for a copy.

Geo-Ipswich

Discover the Geological Heritage of Ipswich

Tour the town centre park, and South-East Ipswich to find landslides, sarsen stones and London clay. Phone 01284 762218 for a copy.

Diary Dates

September – Scottish Geology Festival. www.scottishgeology.com

November 9th – Triassic Vertebrate Footprints and Tracks. St Johns Museum Warwick 7.15pm Contact cvhodgson@hotmail.com

November 28th – Role of women in the history of Geology. Burlington House, London. www.geolsoc.org.uk/hogg

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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 Prof Cynthia Burek, RIGS Newsletter Editor, c.burek@chester.ac.uk or Vic Page, Assistant RIGS Newsletter Editor, v.page@chester.ac.uk.