

The Newsletter

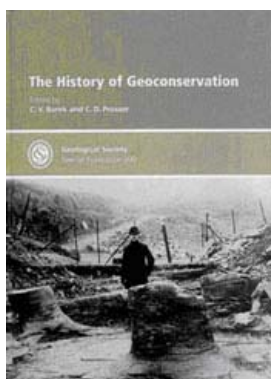
Vol.6 No.1: Summer 2008

**Keeping you up to date with
local and national RIGS activities.**

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E D I T O R I A L



Hi Everyone,

Sorry the newsletter is a little late but there has been so much happening from establishing the UKGAP aim etc and a visit to Chinese Geoparks to the publication of the History of Geoconservation book by the Geological Society. I hope your first six months have been as productive. Make the most of the good weather for assessing RIGS sites. Who knows when the sun will appear again. China is really doing well with its geoconservation and while only at the start of this long road they are receptive to constructive criticism and hope to improve their interpretation in English and Chinese. I certainly enjoyed my three weeks over there.

Happy Rigging,

Cynthia



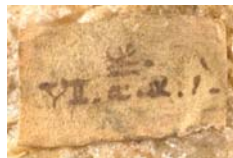
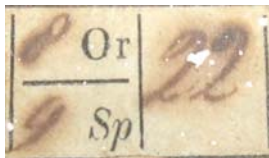
Derbyshire's New Eco-Centre

The UK's first adult and community education eco-centre will be built in Derbyshire after the county council was awarded almost £1m by the LSC. The Education for Sustainable Development Centre will be built within the nationally-acclaimed National Stone Centre, adding to the centre's good work in educating the UK about its environment. It will be at the heart of the county's drive to combat climate change, offering courses in eco-friendly construction skills, renewable energy sources, and arts and the environment from 2010. Featuring a range of energy-saving technology, such as a green roof, a water harvesting system, thermal heat pumps and solar panels, the building will be a national and regional showcase for a reducing carbon footprints and promoting sustainable development. Councillor Bob Janes said "We hope it will become a centre of excellence in keeping rural arts and crafts alive and in teaching adults and young people about sustainable technology and how to become more environmentally-friendly."



Hunt For The Missing Minerals

Sir John St. Aubyn, the 5th Baronet of Clowance, Cornwall (1758 to 1839) amassed a fantastic collection of minerals from the UK and Europe. Consisting of over 1500 specimens, this important collection illustrates our understanding of geology 200 years ago. Unfortunately, the collection was split, sold and auctioned after his death. Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery is trying to locate and fully document the whole collection. Please check your rocks! If you think you may have a Sir John St. Aubyn specimen or you have any information about the history of this collection, please contact Plymouth City Museum so that we can authenticate and photograph your specimen. For more information about Sir John, his collection and the labels



associated with his minerals, please contact Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery on 01752 304765 or email st.aubyn@plymouth.gov.uk. You can also visit our website www.Plymouth.gov.uk/museumstaubyncollection.

These are the most common labels associated with the Sir John St Aubyn collection.

EARTH SCIENCE ON SITE

UKRIGS Education Project Earth Science On Site Update for 2007- 08

John R Reynolds

Thanks to: funding by DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund administered by Natural England, RIGS Groups, ESTA, and the Project team (Rick Ramsdale, Alan Cutler, Susie Lydon, Pauline Jones, Craig Slawson). ESOS succeeded in its prime objective to produce quality Earth Science field teaching activities for schools at 3 further former aggregates sites in Northumberland and Shropshire. It also ran teacher-training courses at two sites and revised Chapter 10 of the RIGS Handbook. Also, two pull-up display banners were created and, with the Black Country GAP, materials written for a site in Walsall.

Teacher-Training Workshops.

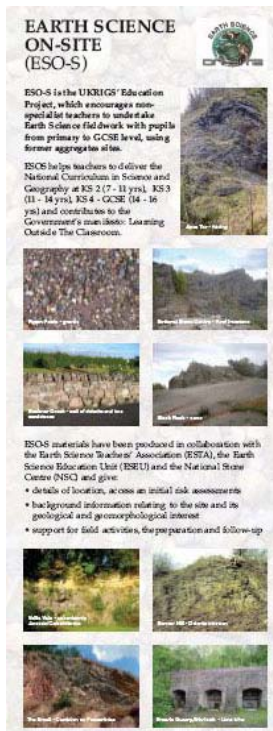
20 teachers from the 100 schools contacted, and 8 trainee teachers from MMU attended a 3 hour workshop at Park Hall Stoke-on-Trent, or Barrow Hill Dudley. Three hours were long enough on cold days. One teacher managed both! The teachers were full of praise for the workshops: "Absolutely excellent - many thanks", is one of the feedback comments, and they were very positive about using the materials as exemplars in their own situations, especially the pebble-hunt and churchyard investigations.

RIGS Handbook Revised

Download from: www.ukrigs.org.uk downloads page. The original authors, John Reynolds, retired teacher, and Alastair Fleming, retired teacher and lecturer in Science Education, undertook the revision. Both continue to be actively involved in Education and Geoconservation. Education is a rapidly moving field and this has been reflected in this major revision. The opportunity was taken to highlight the work of the UKRIGS Education Project in the text, and an appendix gives details of the first twelve sites. Dated and historic materials have been removed, especially from the appendix, and some have been archived. A great deal of time was spent searching and testing the website links to a large number of organisations involved in Life-long learning; formal education in general and fieldwork in particular. These range from government departments and examination boards to local RIGS Groups, and provide the user with a one-stop list of contacts in this important facet of RIGS work.

Display Banners

A colourful pair of banners display a neat layout of background information text on the Project, and images of sites, workshops, and children's worksheets. The banners give an appropriate view of the work of the Project and will be used as publicity material at conferences and meetings.



The 2007 - 08 Sites

Download the full information from esos.ukrigs.org.uk

13. Boulmer Foreshore, Northumberland. KS2, KS3 & KS4. Upper Carboniferous sandstones and limestones are intruded by a 30m dolerite dyke on the foreshore. Modern active processes at work on the beach and adjacent dunes are studied, as is the use of local stone in the built environment.

14. Snableazes Quarry & Cullerose Point, Northumberland. KS3 & KS4. The dolerite of the Whin Sill is well exposed in aggregate quarries and coastal sections in the area, often showing columnar jointing. The baked contact with both the underlying and overlying Upper Carboniferous sedimentary rocks are accessible, as are associated dykes and coastal features.

15. Knowle Quarry, Wenlock Edge, Shropshire. KS2, KS3 & KS4. Knowle Quarry and Limekilns on Wenlock Edge form a compact site, with easy access to fossiliferous reef and bedded Silurian Wenlock Limestone and examples of its early use. Views into the adjacent Lea Quarry give the link to modern use as aggregate. The town of Much Wenlock owes much to the quarries and associated industries for economic prosperity and its built environment. The site is owned by the National Trust and is already used by visiting school groups.

16. Barr Beacon and Pinfold Lane Quarry, Walsall. KS2, KS3 & KS4. UKRIGS has been involved in writing similar materials for this Triassic site as part of the Black Country Geodiversity Action Plan. The Monument on Barr Beacon is a war memorial made of Portland Limestone, with hard Triassic sandstone steps from Staffs. The adjacent Pinfold Lane Quarry shows typical red Triassic sandstones and pebble beds, with the polished angular clasts of the distinctive Hopwas Breccia on top. The site provides useful contrasts to work at Barrow Hill on the southern side of the West Midlands Conurbation and is hosted on our website.

PUBLICATIONS

**Bedfordshire & Luton Geology Group
Bringing Landscape to Life series**

www.bedsrigs.org.uk, 01234 353323

Bedfordshire & Luton RIGS

This easy to follow and useful information leaflet gives a good overview of the geology of Bedfordshire, and also explains what RIGS are, and activity of the local RIGS group.

Jurassic Limestones

An interesting and picture-rich explanation of Jurassic Bedfordshire, with tips on where to spot the best examples of the local stone.

Jurassic Clays: Marston Vale

This information leaflet gives a geological history of the area, and describes the formation of the Oxford Clays and where best to view examples of them.

Bedfordshire
& Luton RIGS



bringing
landscape
to life

**UKRIGS Scotland
Arbroath to Auchmithie
Geodiversity Trail**

Part of the Whiting Ness to Ethie Haven SSSI. A beautiful and well explained walk by Upper and Lower Devonian sandstone cliffs and coves, and past the Abbey built from local stone.

**Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Fossil Code**

A thorough and important resource for fossil enthusiasts, for best practise on collection, identification, conservation and storage of fossil specimens found in Scotland.

**Black Country
Geological Society
Norton Covert**

The Friends of Norton Covert work to study and improve the site for the public. The covert tells a story of scorching deserts, icy wastes and woodland glades through its outcrops and exposures. This leaflet explains the history, geology and biology of the site.

**Warwickshire Geological
Conservation Group
Shattering Discoveries at
Mancetter's Purley Quarry**

A rare view of Cambrian rockforms, which WGCG are planning to preserve, and promote in on-site interpretation panels and through this leaflet. The site is now a RIGS and the leaflet describes the geology of the site and the surrounding area.

**Natural England****State of the Environment**

Natural England 2008 State of the Environment report is now online for you to peruse at your pleasure if you haven't found it already, its at www.naturalengland.org/sona. Geodiversity has a section within the landscapes chapter.

Staffordshire RIGS

www.esci.keele.ac.uk/srigrs

The Churnet Valley Geotrail

This leaflet describes the formation of this dramatic valley and a history of its changing shape. Also the contribution of rocks and minerals to the industry of the area. An educational walk!

**RIGS in Staffordshire**

A concise overview of the Staffordshire RIGS group and sites, Staffordshire GAP and Geotrails, complete with maps and photos in a handy leaflet.

NEWRIGS

www.newrigs.org

Steaming Through the Past

Take a train ride to follow this geological trail of the Dee Valley, from the station at Llangollen to Bonwm Halt and back again.

Geodiversity of the Clwydian Range AONB

A bi-lingual guide to the most interesting geological features of the area, including the limestone pavements at Bryn Alyn and the spectacular glacial valleys.

**Earth Heritage**

Earth Heritage magazine is alive and well and will be published this year. If you don't already subscribe to this free twice-yearly magazine, register with Cynthia Burek (c.burek@chester.ac.uk) to receive your copy. Earth Heritage is for anyone interested in geological and landscape conservation. It is produced by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales. The UKRIGS Geoconservation Association is a principal contributing partner. A complete database listing all the articles carried in previous issues is available on CD also from Cynthia.

**Hestercombe Gardens Trust**

The Stones of Hestercombe A 23 page geological guide to the rocks and stonework of Hestercombe Gardens, written by High Prudden and Philip White.

The gardens are one of the top geological attractions in Somerset with over 70,000 visitors annually.

Bringing Geology to Life in Halton

Inspired by the Natural England document "Making the Links" of 2004, Cheshire RIGS is supporting rECOrd in an important new project, investigating the interaction between biodiversity and geodiversity in the area. rECOrd, part of NBN, is the local wildlife record centre for Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and the Wirral. It holds over 1 million records of wildlife sightings and uses the data to inform building developments, local authority policies and a range of other conservation activities. Cheshire RIGS is bringing its expertise in geology to the project, so that the two areas can be combined. By the end of 2009 the project outcomes will include public leaflets, display boards at chosen sites of interest, website material and a series of reports. The final stage report will be used to inform an updated Local Geodiversity Action Plan for Halton Borough Council. For more information, please contact the project officer, Tom Hunt, on tom@record-lrc.co.uk or visit www.record-lrc.co.uk.

Photo: Amanda Williams, Cheshire RIGS.



What the heck is it? Geological Curators List.

The Geological Curators Group run a jiscmail list that is especially useful for answering queries and solving problems related to geological specimens. Past queries have included "what the heck is it" fossil identifications so don't feel you can't ask! See www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/GEO-CURATORS.html. We also have a website at www.geocurator.org that we are planning to add educational resources and activities to soon, so get in touch with Helen Fothergill, Chair of the Geological Curators Group to share your bright ideas.

Helen.Fothergill@plymouth.gov.uk

NEWRIGS at the Fossil Forest

Excavations at Brymbo Carboniferous Fossil Forest began again on 14th April for about six weeks. The many fossilised club moss trees were discovered in 2006 as a steelworks was being transformed into a housing estate in Brymbo, Wrexham, and work is ongoing to catalogue and preserve this extraordinary find. Part of the site was unstable and we needed to recover as many plants as possible for curation and possible display. Many thanks to all those who helped!

Jacqui Malpas

NBN Change of Address

The National Biodiversity Network Trust secretariat: Mandy Henshall and Jo Purdy, and the trading company Bio D Services Ltd, have moved from Newark to Nottingham. The new address is: NBN Trust, 3-5 High Pavement, Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1HF. All email addresses remain unchanged. Telephone numbers: Jo 0115 959 6434, Mandy 0115 959 6435, Fax 0115 9596436. The NBN works with local record centres to provide a comprehensive web-based wildlife information database at www.nbn.org.uk.

DIARY DATES

September 12th—14th 2008

ESTA Conference at Liverpool University
Theme: Global Issues Full info from
www.esta-uk.org

October 18th 2008

"Craggy ponderous stone and other delights".
Guided walk from Roche Rock to Tresayes Quarry reserve, Cornwall, by geologist John Macadam of Earthwords and Cornwall RIGS Group. Meet at Roche Roche (just inside the roadside hedge) (Grid Ref SW992597) at 10 a.m., finish about 1 p.m.

CREDITS

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University of
Chester

UKRIGS wishes to acknowledge the financial support of Natural England and the practical support of the University of Chester's Centre for Science Communication and Print Unit.

It is always interesting and enjoyable to read about RIGS groups and their work.

To share your news, 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.

Views expressed in this newsletter are of the individual authors and do not represent opinions of UKRIGS.