

# UKRIGS NEWSLETTER

*Autumn 2007, Vol.5, No.3*

*Keeping you up to date with RIGS nationally and in your area.*

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## E D I T O R I A L

As the nights start to draw in we start to think of geoconservation issues other than fieldwork in the sun. Initiating ideas for next year, completing and starting new interpretation items, completing RIGS documentation - The work to be done is endless. Seeking UNESCO or European Geopark status may seem like that too, which is why we must congratulate Torbay on becoming the next English Geopark "The English Riviera". Anglesey awaits field visits from assessors and Shetland in Scotland and Morne in Northern Ireland continue their drive to join others already there. Another process, which takes a long time, is publishing books so it is with great joy that I can announce the publication in Sept 2007 of "The Role of Women in the History of Geology" as a special publication of the Geological Society, (eds Burek & Higgs). Also the first ever book on the "History of Geoconservation" has gone to the publisher to be produced April or May next year 2008, (eds Burek & Prosser). This is a direct result of the conference held by History of Geology Group, Geoconservation Commission, Natural England and Dudley Museum on that topic in 2006. Congratulations too to Ireland for securing funding for 3 years to produce Earth Science in Ireland. This publication is similar in style to Earth Heritage.

Good Rigging, Cynthia & Vic



## Letter from the National Trust

Dear All,

The National Trust geology and geological collecting policies have now been signed off. The final versions are available via the Nature pages (under Geology) of our website: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk). Simon Ford and I would like to thank you all for your very helpful contributions. We would like to remind you that these policies were produced in response to an operational need identified in Wessex. They bring together the Trust's past discussions, papers and reports on this subject into two documents that acknowledge our magnificent geological resource and set out our position and our approach to its promotion and conservation. Importantly, they draw on or make some reference to several other relevant internal and external policies and initiatives and are to be implemented along with these, as appropriate. As with all Trust policies they will be reviewed periodically. We know there is a lot of potential and interest (both internally and externally) in promoting our geological resource and engaging more widely with this subject. We hope we can do this through various existing initiatives such as the Trust's wildlife campaign theme 'hidden nature' and external initiatives, such as International Year of Planet Earth, and over time develop stronger links with various geological groups and individuals such as yourselves.

Best wishes, Lucy & Simon

Lucy Cordrey, Nature Conservation Technician, Heelis

Simon Ford, Nature Conservation Adviser, Wessex

The National Trust Conservation Directorate



## Planning Coalition Feedback

UKRIGS Executive committee hopes that groups had time to do something about this important issue. Any feedback from any groups to UKRIGS will be welcome as this is now being sought by the consortium. It is gratifying to see that material (including advertisements in the Times newspaper) have gone out with the UKRIGS logo alongside some of the other well-respected national conservation organizations such as National Trust, RSPB, Wildlife Trust and Friends of the Earth. Whether the Government pay any attention to this important planning issue remains to be seen.

## E X E C U T I V E N E W S

### UKRIGS Education Project

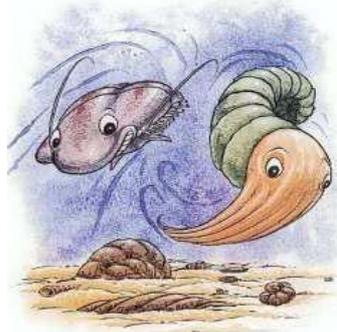
Further ALSF funding has been awarded for two more sites - Boulmer Coast and Snableazes Quarry in the Whin Sill, Northumberland; and Coates Quarry North on Wenlock Edge, Shropshire. Also to provide teacher workshops and revision of Chapter 10 of the RIGS Handbook - RIGS and Education.

### UKRIGS Website Viewing Figures

UKRIGS - 14308  
Earth Science On Site - 858

### Chair in Scotland

Mike Browne, our UKRIGS Chair, has been asked to serve on the Conservation panel of the National Trust for Scotland.



### Aggregates Workshops Bid Success

A joint bid from UKRIGS, the GTs and Natural England for ALSF funding has been successful. The Project entitled "Driving Aggregates and LGAPs forward in England" emerged as a follow up to the Survey Questionnaire in which you all participated. The main aims of the project are the support of one-day workshops covering each Government region - sharing good practice including the development of common standards for site management plans (ideally one for each group) for selected aggregates sites. A special funding workshop will be organised later. Project Manager Julie Harrald is currently producing the project plan for Natural England approval. Together with Julie and GT officer Chloe Brooks, Alan Cutler will be helping in the general arrangements and workshop presentations.

## Peace Prize for Al Gore

On October 12th, former USA Vice President Al Gore, was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his work as an environmental crusader, sharing it with the UN intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

## U K R I G S A G M

### AGM

**At:** The GA Annual Festival

**Hosts:** Liverpool Geol Soc

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007

**Venue:** John Moore's University

**Time:** 12 midday

All UKRIGS members are welcome to attend.

### AGM Nominations

This year several positions are becoming vacant on the UKRIGS committee. Please consider standing for Chair, Secretary, Treasurer or one of the 5 committee member positions (without portfolio, so to speak). Your own RIGS GROUP and one other group must propose you. Please check that you have received the information.

### UKRIGS Governance and Constitution

The UKRIGS Executive committee has been discussing updating the governance and constitution of UKRIGS, in line with modern terminology and future expectations. This will be open to discussion at the AGM.

### Voting and Subscriptions

All RIGS group annual Subscriptions for membership were due on 31<sup>st</sup> August. 2007. Please send £5 to the Treasurer Alan Cutler as soon as possible. You must be a paid up member to be eligible to vote at the AGM. Institution membership remains at £25 per annum.

## Forest of Dean Geomap

The Forest of Dean Local History Society has been awarded a grant by DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund administered by Natural England, to produce a spectacular piece of sculpture. Geologists are fairly certain that this is a unique project, with certainly nothing like it in the UK, and even in the world. The Geomap will be a 900ft square geology map of the Forest of Dean, sculpted by David Yeates. Instead of bright colours on a piece of paper, the rock strata will be represented by the actual rock types. The public will be able to walk across it and also view it from a high vantage point. Mines, quarries and railways will be marked on the map, and plaques will offer further explanation, celebrating these great industries both of the past and the present in this unique area. As partners, the Forestry Commission, Gloucestershire Geology Trust, Forest of Dean District Council and Coleford MCTI Partnership will all be offering their expertise as the project progresses. The Geomap will be completed by March 2008.

## R E G I O N A L R I G S

### Congrats to Staffs RIGS

The Staffs RIGS Group leaflet, "The Hamps and Manifold GeoTrail" has won the British Cartographic Society Stanfords Award for Printed Mapping. Congratulations to Rosemary Duncan, cartographer at Staffs University for her sterling efforts on behalf of Staffs RIGS Group. Judges said: The mapping is well referenced to the additional information surrounding it, including geo-sections, photographs and the descriptive text. The colour schemes and design are really eye catching and well balanced across the whole product with a very attractive layout. The format is well suited to the user, as a tour guide as well as a keepsake. Download from: [www.esci.keele.ac.uk/srigs](http://www.esci.keele.ac.uk/srigs) Watch this space for the next SRIGS geo-trail in the Churnet Valley between Froghall and Alton.

### East Anglian RIGS Meeting

GeoSuffolk arranged and hosted a meeting of East Anglian RIGS Groups on 26th May, held at Amberfield School in Nacton, Suffolk. The meeting followed on from the successful inaugural meeting of 2005 and 31 delegates attended, with representatives from Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. The aims of the meeting were to maintain and further develop links between local RIGS groups, and to demonstrate just some of the wide variety of interests and projects undertaken by GeoSuffolk in the last 24 months. The Proceedings of the meeting will be recorded in Volume 43 (2007) of the Transactions of the Suffolk Naturalists' Society. The morning and early afternoon were devoted to a series of seven excellent thought-provoking and entertaining presentations, including an update on progress with the Suffolk LGAP by Tim Holt-Wilson and 3D mapping of the Ipswich area by officers of the BGS. Most of the afternoon was devoted to a field excursion to Newbourne organised by Bob Markham, assisted by other GeoSuffolk members. Participants examined the geology and landforms of Newbourne Springs (a Suffolk Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve), the building stones of the parish church, and Red Crag in 'The Great Pit'.

### Central Wales RIGS Project

Since it was set up in May 2005 under the chairmanship of Dr. Bill Fitches, the Central Wales RIGS group (Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites in Ceredigion and Powys) have identified 135 sites. These sites have been surveyed and recorded, and the reports will be lodged shortly with the planning authorities of Ceredigion and Powys county councils and with landowners. In addition to the site audit, several Public Awareness projects have been undertaken by members of Central Wales RIGS. These projects include leading field excursions in various parts of Central Wales, North Wales and the Isle of Man. Presentations have been given to the Cambrian Mountains Society, Mid Wales Geological Society and other amateur groups. This 2-year conservation project has been under the chairmanship of Dr W.R. Fitches at Aberystwyth and funded by the Aggregates Sustainability Levy Fund, administered by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). The Central Wales RIGS group expects to audit additional sites beyond completion of this project.

## Geodiversity and LGAPs review

A MIRO and MIST Aggregate review (reviewing what these two bodies have funded), is being carried out by Peter Scott, David Roche and colleagues at Exeter along with Keith Ambrose of UKRIGS. It is entitled Recognising and managing geodiversity: a 'state of knowledge' review. The report will contain definitions and the components of geodiversity and how geodiversity is recognised and managed in the UK. As it will cover Geodiversity audits, LGAPs, raising awareness in the community and the value of geodiversity, it will concern RIGS groups. If you would like an input, please contact Peter Scott. We look forward to seeing the findings and recommendations. The forthcoming book by the Geological Society on the History of Geoconservation will most likely cover some of the material in a broader way as this project should be dealing primarily with aggregate quarries.

## Launch of West Yorkshire Geology Trust

The event on August 25<sup>th</sup> made a good start for our renewed efforts to protect West Yorkshire's diverse geology and, equally important, to share it, enabling young and old, visitors and residents, to explore and experience the rocks, fossils and mineral wealth that made the county what it is. It was a well-attended launch, in Otley Civic Centre, for our new geology trust and the Local Geodiversity Action Plan which we are now devising for our county of craggy gritstone, fossil-rich coal measures and magnesian limestone: rocks that formed, respectively, in ancient river deltas, in tropical forests and in dying seas - right here in West Yorkshire.

## PUBLICATIONS

### The Role of Women in the History of Geology

Ed C.V. Burek and B. Higgs

Geological Society - Special Publication 281

This inspiring book unravels the diverse roles women have played in the history and development of geology as a science.

Available from [www.geolsoc.org/bookshop](http://www.geolsoc.org/bookshop)

### Earth Science - Ireland

Published by Earth Science 2000

The first edition of this new magazine (formerly ES2k) was published earlier this year, packed with exciting reports, to raise the profile of Earth Science in Ireland.

Available from [rbazley@btinternet.com](mailto:rbazley@btinternet.com)

## CREDITS

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#### Executive Committee

Chair: Mike Browne – Lothian & Borders  
Treasurer: Alan Cutler – Black Country GS  
Prof Cynthia Burek – NEWRIGS  
Dr Ken Addison – Gwynedd & Mon RIGS  
Keith Ambrose – Leicester & Rutland RIGS  
John Reynolds – Staffordshire RIGS  
Dr Tom Hose – Bucks RIGS

#### Co-opted

Secretary: Dr Cheryl Jones  
Webmaster: Craig Slawson – Staffs RIGS  
Education Officer: Rick Ramsdale  
Kevin Crawford – Cheshire RIGS  
Peter Jones – Derbyshire RIGS

## WORKSHOP DATES

### 6. East Midlands Region

Thursday 18th October

BGS, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5GG

### 7. North East Region

Tuesday 30th October

Natural England, Quadrant, Newburn Riverside,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8NZ



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 in this quarterly newsletter, please contact Prof Cynthia Burek, RIGS Newsletter Editor, [c.burek@chester.ac.uk](mailto:c.burek@chester.ac.uk) or Vic Page, Assistant RIGS Newsletter Editor, [v.page@chester.ac.uk](mailto:v.page@chester.ac.uk).*

**NEXT COPY-DATE is DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> 2007.**

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