

# London Geodiversity Action Plan 2014-2018

## Progress in implementing the London GAP February 2016 to March 2017

### And proposed activities for 2017-2018

This report details the progress made by the London Geodiversity Partnership in implementing the London geodiversity action plan 2014-2018, including the activities of individual Partners, as discussed at the Plenary Meeting of the Partnership on 16 February 2016.

#### **Objective 1: Increase our understanding of the geodiversity of London**

1.1 Processed 2016 candidate LIGS (Monken Hadley Common included with other 12 on website).

3 candidate RIGS and 10 candidate LIGS added to website and details sent to appropriate LAs and some of the land owners (where not LA)

Identified 26 SGIs to be written up for the Guide to London's geological sites (in process)

1.2 Continued to build up knowledge of resources.

List of partners placed on website

1.3 Link established in Building London and on website to 35 London building stone walks through Urban Geology and London Pavement Geology websites.

1.4 Partnership asking Natural England to prioritise publication of the scoping study on links between park and garden design and geodiversity. (?leave)

#### **Objective 2: Manage and conserve the geodiversity of London**

2.1 Information on geodiversity on the GIGL website updated to include the new candidate RIGS and LIGS.

London Wildlife Sites Board attended a meeting and are keen to develop the geological importance of Wansunt Pit (renamed Braeburn Park)

2.2 Inspected 15 sites previously identified as RIGS/LIGS (GLA 2, 3, 5, 6, 7,14, 25, 26, 41, 42, 44, 58, 59, 64, and 70). 1 site, Riddlesdown, was conserved but requires more geoconservation; the 2 sites identified in 2016 (GLA 38 Chalky Dell and GLA51 Parish's Pit) would benefit from vegetation clearance to improve visibility. Continuing conservation work is being undertaken at GLA 7 Crystal Palace dinosaurs by the Friends of Crystal Palace.

Access to the geological interest at Gilbert's Pit (GLA14) has been achieved with thanks to the Royal Borough of Greenwich and Natural England. A formal launch was made by Cllr Fahy and an Open Day and 2 other group visits were guided by LGP. Text for Information Boards and a leaflet for the Rangers has been prepared and a pack for the local schools is being worked on.

Continued liaison with LB Bexley on Abbey Wood project (GLA 1 and 38), with RB Greenwich on Gilbert's Pit and with the City of London on Highgate Wood and Hampstead Heath (GLA 44, GLA 42) and LGP were consulted by LB Lewisham on proposals for Beckenham Place Park (GLA 3).

A geoconservation Day was held at Riddlesdown Chalk Quarry 8 October 2016.

Involved London Open University Geological Society in geoconservation day at Riddlesdown Chalk Quarry and established or continued liaison with the Friends of Queens Wood, the Friends of Richmond Park, London Natural History Society, the Geologists Association, the City of London Corporation, the Royal Parks, London Wildlife Trust, Friends of Coldfall Wood, Friends of Alexandra Palace, Heath hands, Friends of Beckenham Park and Friends of Maryon Park

Several views from Green Chain Walk in south-east London identified for possible inclusion in a document detailing London views. Views from Alexandra Palace have been obtained and other view ideas have begun investigation.

### **Objective 3: Deliver sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits for London**

3.1 12 geological points of interest on Green Chain Walk and routes from South-East train stations are now published on the GCW website as audio trails: Trail through Time. A revised edition of the Green Chain Walk Geotrail has been added. Work is nearly completed on a more comprehensive geotrail covering the whole of the GCW: Trail through Time Geotrail.

Fully developed Richmond Park geotrail. The Spas & Springs in south London Geotrail with its points of interest needs some revision after the GCW audio project)

Identified geological points of interest on or near the Green Chain Walk and Capital Ring, with a few also on London Loop. GCW and fragments of the Capital Ring are actively being developed within the Springs & Spas in South London & Richmond Park geotrails.

3.2 Promoted Building London and the Partnership at GA Festival of Geology and continued development of building stone walks through the Urban geology and London pavement geology websites.

Led Richmond Park Geotrail during Earth Science Week in October. Several partners led building stone and geology walks for the public and local organisations, eg on Hampstead Heath and for Heath Hands and the Friends of Queens Wood, to Coldfall Wood, Richmond, Beckenham Place Park. Talks were given to organisations including the Friends of Alexandra Palace, Gilbert's Pit was explained to the local Friends and schools as well as visitors from Geology groups, engineers and students.

Public events run by the Partnership and those of Partnership members (Geologists' Association and the Amateur Geological Society) have been advertised on website.

3.3 Responded to query on potential development at Horsenden Hill ((GLA20) and liaised with Natural England and the developers on a proposed development at Harrow Weald (GLA18).

### **Objective 4: Promote and care for London's Geodiversity**

4.1 SSSIs, RIGS and LIGS now separately identified on map in Guide to London's geological sites and work on newly recommended RIGS/LIGS and first tranche of proposed SGIs nearing completion..

4.2 The website has been updated as and when appropriate. Flickr and Twitter accounts have been added.

Links added to Urban geology and London pavement geology websites

4.3 Continued liaison with London Wildlife Sites Board.

4.4 An event was held for the OCR examination board on using the urban environment as a teaching resource. A number of articles were published in Earth heritage (Riddlesdown geoconservation and Gilbert's Pit this year .

Assisted Michael Franks on his Earthcache walk around St. Pancras Old Church cemetery.

4.5 Research on the ochres on Hampstead Heath was included in research on British ochres.

### **Objective 5: Sustain geodiversity activities in London**

5.1 Grant Museum of Zoology joined the Partnership but with the departure of the person involved, its interests will continue to be covered through UCL.

5.2 Royal Parks were informally invited to join the Partnership

5.3 Natural England funding was received for work at Gilbert's Pit..

## **Objective 6: Influence London-wide and London borough planning and environmental policies**

6.1 Continued to liaise with GLA on preparing next tranche of 'Candidate' RIGS/LIGS sites added to the website with approval of time line added to the website and LAs with the citations. A new London's Foundations should be published in the Autumn which will include the 13 new sites.

6.2 responded to consultation by LB Bromley on planning application at Klinger Pit (GLA41).

6.3 Made a submission to the Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry into public parks.

## Proposed activities for 2017

17 Potential sites identified that remain to be assessed plus a number of new ones proposed including Greenwich Park with Royal Parks. Lost Rivers, potential Bus Pass Geology routes and London views will also be assessed.

9 London boroughs have no geodiversity interest identified as yet and further desk research will be carried out.

20 sites (GLA 15, 17, 18, 26, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35,37, 41, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54 and 61) have been identified that have not been inspected for 5 or more years or have ongoing planning, geoconservation or interpretation requirements.

Prepare entries for the Guide to London's geological sites on the LGP website for the 3 RIGS and 10 LIGS that have been recommended and the SGIs proposed.

Revise guide to the Spas and springs of south London geotrail and complete geological points of interest on the Green Chain Walk A Trail through Time, and an overview of London's geology and place on website.

Complete geotrail for Richmond Park for the website (still requires permissions). Lead the proposed Centenary Excursion from Richmond Park through the gravel pit at Coombe Wood to Wimbledon Common to re-enact the GA trip on 19 May 1917.

Lead a walk for the public during Earth science week (suggestions include Lea Valley and repeat Richmond Park).

Submit updates for inclusion of RIGS/LIGS on GLA website and revision of London's Foundations..

Hold a Geoconservation day at Riddlesdown (GLA26) in September, and look at the possibilities for further geoconservation work at Harefield SSSI (GLA34), which requires action from Natural England, Chalky Dell and Tripcock Ness (GLA39).

Continue liaison on Gilbert's Pit for interpretation board(s) a leaflet and education pack. Also Abbey Wood, Highgate Wood, the proposed development at Harrow Weald, Wansunt Pit and Spring Park and examine the possibilities for adding geodiversity interest to the Bedford Park nature trail, Hainault Forest Park and the Epping Forest visitor centre.

Update the LGP website to remove some of the glitches and 'under construction' pages. Work on the Geology section by adding both new and LF diagrams and a precis of text from LF. Links to the Flickr and Twitter accounts required.