

## Progress in implementing the London GAP as at February 2018

### London Geodiversity Action Plan 2014-2018

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 6 March 2018.

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

- 1.1 Processed 1 candidate LIGS (Greenwich Park GLA 73).

Processed 30 SGIs and added to the *Guide to London's geological sites* (dots on interactive map in process)

A number of new sites were visited: some became SGIs, others will be added to the next tranche of SGI and at least 3 others will be considered for LIGS status.

- 1.2 List of partners on website was updated to include the Tertiary Research Group
- 1.3 Link established in *Building London* and on website to 39 London building stone walks through Urban Geology and London Pavement Geology websites (now UK wide).
- 1.4 Partnership asking Natural England to prioritise publication of the scoping study on links between park and garden design and geodiversity.

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

- 2.1 1 candidate LIGS added to LGP website and details sent to appropriate LA and land owner

The boundaries in the entry for GLA22 (Keston Common) is in the process of revision to include Darwin's Bog.

The relevant Local Authorities and land owners were notified about the 14 new candidate RIGS and LIGS

Relevant bodies were sent details of SGIs, including Caledonian Fields with the intention of using the information in the new Visitor Centre. New Cross Cutting relates to a planning application and will be linked to the website. It was suggested that the Rockingham Anomaly be linked to the website of the art project.

Working with London Wildlife Trust to interpret New Cross Cutting.

GiGL information has been updated

- 2.2 Inspected 20 sites previously identified as RIGS/LIGS (GLA 1, 2, 7, 14, 22, 25, 26, 29, 33 (NE), 34, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 52, 58, 61, 64, and 70. One site, Riddlesdown, was conserved and this will become an annual event. Continuing conservation work is being undertaken at GLA 7 Crystal Palace dinosaurs by the Friends of Crystal Palace.

With the improved access to the geological interest at Gilbert's Pit (GLA14) several groups have been guided round the site [ERMS, GSL, HHGS, and University of West London]. Thanks to the Royal Borough of Greenwich for helping clear the steps. Donations have been

put into a special fund for continued Geoconservation. Thanks to the Curry Fund a board has now been positioned on the south face. Text for Information laminates is now on the LGP website and a leaflet for the Rangers has been given to them and other visitors. A pack for the local primary schools has been handed to the interested teacher. Examples of rocks and fossils with suggestions on how to use them is under preparation.

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 (GLA 44), Hampstead Heath (GLA 42) and Spring Park (GLA 61). LGP were approached by the Friends of Barn Hill to comment on text about the site; by Gail Dickerson in working with her to obtain peat from the Rockingham Anomaly.

Geoconservation Day at Riddlesdown Chalk Quarry on 30 September 2017.

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, The Friends of Coldfall Wood, London Natural History Society, the Geologists' Association, the City of London Corporation, the Royal Parks, London Wildlife Trust, Friends of Alexandra Palace and Heath Hands. Collaboration with an Arts project in Kensal Green Cemetery led to delivery of a walk around the cemetery and a workshop on the geology.

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

Bus pass geology continues to be researched. Apart from SE London (in progress), new routes were suggested:

- 1) Kenwood House, Avenue House, Coldfall Wood, Highgate and Queens Wood; and
- 2) Geology on the route from Chelsea to Harrow and Hillingdon.

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

- 3.1. Twelve 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 which is now available on our website. (Spas & Springs in south London Geotrail with its points of interest needs some revision after the GCW audio project; Thames Path Geotrail is being revised; a new geotrail around Greenwich Park has been trialled and awaits completion; work on a geotrail around Spring Park has begun)

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 GCW POIs, Springs & Spas in South London & Richmond Park geotrains. Spring Park is on the London Loop.

- 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.

Researched use and origin of 'iron-cemented' conglomerates in the GLA.

Following the workshop and led walk in Kensal Green Cemetery, a guide to the stones of the graves of famous geologists and engineers is being prepared (based on earlier work by Eric Robinson).

Greenwich Park Geotrail led during Earth Science Week in October. Several partners led building stone and geology walks for the public and local organisations, e.g. on Hampstead Heath and to Heath Hands and the Friends of Coldfall Wood to Coldfall Wood, Centenary Excursion to Richmond Park, Kingston Hill and Wimbledon Common, Beckenham Place Park. Gilbert's Pit was explained to the local Friends and schools as well as visitors from the Geological Society, Geology groups, engineers and students. Led a sensory workshop, and walk around Kensal Green Cemetery for 'Journey to the Interior' art project and 'Landscape Learn'. Several building stone walks were delivered to the public around the capital.

Talks were given to organisations including Jackie Skipper's lecture on scour and drift-filled hollows at the Geological Society and talks on various aspects of building stones by Ruth Siddall.

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 about text for a chapter in a book on Repton at Barn Hill; to a planning application in relation to the New Cross Gate Cutting; responded to LB Bromley over a planning application to Klinger Site (GLA 41); became involved in an art project on the Rockingham Anomaly (added as SGI). Responded to questionnaire on: *Mobilising the Geoscience Community*.

#### **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*. The additional 14 candidate RIGS/LIGS are posted on the website but still need to be added to the interactive map. The details of the first tranche of 30 SGIs are posted on the website but these still need to be added to the interactive map.

Relevant bodies were sent details of SGIs, including Caledonian Fields with the intention of using the information in the new Visitor Centre.

- 4.2 The website has been updated as and when appropriate. Flickr and Twitter accounts have been added.
- 4.2 Links added to Urban geology and London pavement geology websites
- 4.3 Continued liaison with London Wildlife Sites Board.
- 4.4 Two articles were published in *Earth heritage* (Riddlesdown geoconservation and Gilbert's Pit). The write-up of the Centenary Excursion was published in the GA Magazine and we are grateful for permission to add to our website. A report on the Romano British Pottery Kiln at Highgate Wood is added to our website.

Michael Franks was assisted on his Earthcache walk around The British Library.

- 4.5 The Excavations on Hampstead Heath were visited with a view to writing a report to be published on our website.

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

- 5.1 Grant Museum of Zoology left the Partnership but its activities will be cared for by UCL.
- 5.2 The Tertiary Research Group has agreed to join the Partnership. Royal Parks has also become involved.
- 5.3 Curry Fund Grant for the south face interpretation board at Gilbert's Pit was received.

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

- 6.1 Continued to liaise with GLA on preparing 13 'Candidate' RIGS/LIGS sites. These were added to the LGP website and will be, later, to GLA website. An additional site was added in December 2017. A new *London's Foundations* should be published in the autumn which will include the 14 new sites.

From contact with Ealing, the Friends of Barn Hill are proposing opening up the view to St. Mary's Harrow on the Hill.

- 6.2 Commented to the Mayor for London on consultation drafts of the *London Plan* and the *London Environment Strategy*.
- 6.3 Responded to questionnaires on the value of local parks.