

London Geodiversity Action Plan 2014-2018

Progress in implementing the London GAP as at March 2019

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 22 March 2019.

Objective 1: Increase our understanding of the geodiversity of London

- 1.1 Processed four candidate LIGS (Springwell Farm GLA 74, Watts Common GLA 75, Rockingham Anomaly GLA 76 (upgraded from SGI), Park Hill Chalk Pit, Carshalton GLA 77).

Several new sites were visited: some will be added to the next tranche of SGIs. Ideas for at least one other will be considered for LIGS status (Wandsworth Common).

- 1.2 List of partners on website was updated.
- 1.3 *Overground Underground* public meeting held in University College in September to assist development of the next London GAP, 2019-2024.
- 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 The four candidate LIGS agreed are to be added to LGP website and details will be sent to appropriate local authority and land owners

The boundary in the entry for GLA 22 (Keston Common) is in the process of revision to include Darwin's Bog (for inclusion in the revised *London's Foundations*).

Partnership is working with London Wildlife Trust to interpret New Cross Cutting and Grove Park residents to establish a Geotrail.

- 2.2 Inspected 21 sites previously identified as SSSI/RIGS/LIGS (GLA 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 14, 18, 26, 29, 35, 38, 41, 42, 44, 55, 58, 61, 63, 64, and 73).

Management Plans were drawn up by Natural England for the SSSIs at Harefield and Wansunt Pit.

Two sites: Riddlesdown (GLA 26) and Gilbert's Pit (GLA 14) were conserved; Riddlesdown has become an annual event. Harefield was inspected along with the

Agent and Natural England with a view to conservation work being carried out. The Friends of Crystal Palace secured funding for a bridge to be constructed to the Island (GLA 7 Crystal Palace dinosaurs).

With the improved access to the geological interest at Gilbert's Pit (GLA 14) groups continue to request to be guided round the site (e.g. Worshipful Company of Engineers, Greenwich Wildlife Advisory Group). Thanks to the Royal Borough of Greenwich for helping clear the steps. Donations have been put into a special fund for continued Geoconservation. The eroding 'bridge' at the top was inspected with a view of making a bridging structure. Examples of rocks and fossils for the local primary school, with suggestions on how to use them, are under preparation.

Continued liaison with LB Bexley on Lesnes Abbey Wood project (GLA 1 and 38), with RB Greenwich on Gilbert's Pit and with the City of London on Highgate Wood, Hampstead Heath and Spring Park (GLA 44, GLA 42, GLA 61). The little Exhibition in Highgate Wood has been redone with new text. LGP were approached by the Friends of Barn Hill (GLA 63).

Worked with Gail Dickerson to mount a small exhibition on the geology of the Rockingham Anomaly and surrounds to support the temporary exhibition of her artworks in which she uses samples of the local rocks (November 2018).

Wimbledon Museum invited the Partnership for advice on a geology display and identification of fossils. The idea of a Wimbledon Common Geotrail was discussed.

London Open University Geological Society was involved in geoconservation days at Riddlesdown Chalk Quarry and Gilbert's Pit. Established or continued liaison with the Friends of Queens Wood, the Friends of Richmond Park, The Friends of Coldfall Wood, Crouch End and District U3A, London Natural History Society, the Geologists' Association, the City of London Corporation, the Royal Parks, London Wildlife Trust, and Heath Hands.

London Views were put together for the *Overground/Underground* meeting and will form the basis of a future publication on the LGP website; a new view was recognised from Addiscombe Hills, Croydon

Bus pass geology continues to be researched and the following were presented at the *Overground/Underground meeting*:

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

Work continues on SE London route(s).

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

- 3.1 Work is nearly completed on a comprehensive geotrail covering the whole of the Green Chain Walk: *Trail through Time Geotrail*. The Spas & Springs in south London Geotrail (not yet published) with its points of interest needs some revision after the GCW audio project

Thames Path Geotrail is in the process of writing up for the LGP website.

The geotrail around Greenwich Park writing up for the LGP website is near completion

A geotrail around Spring Park still has to be written up and boards prepared for the display boards in the Park in conjunction with City of London Corporation.

A geotrail 'The Anomalous River Neckinger' is in the process of writing up, hopefully being its presentation in Earth Science Week, October 2019.

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

- 3.2 A geotrail around Spring Park was presented for GeoWeek in May.

Thames Path Geotrail was revisited and was revised for a public walk for Earth Science Week in October - writing up for the LGP website is underway.

The geotrail around Greenwich Park was presented for the GA Festival of Geology

Some Partners led geology walks for the public and local organisations under the LGP banner, e.g. on Hampstead Heath for Heath Hands and the Friends of Coldfall Wood to Coldfall Wood, Highgate Wood and Queen's Wood for U3A, Gilbert's Pit (twice), Abbey Wood (Worshipful Co. of Engineers).

Talks about LGP were given to the Worshipful Company of Engineers, to participants at the *Overground/Underground* meeting and at the opening of the Rockingham Anomaly Exhibition.

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. Some partners led public Urban Walks and gave talks for a number of outside organisations: Public Monuments & Sculpture Association (PMSA), National Park City Fair, UCL's 'It's All Academic Festival', ESTA, GA Festival of Geology, British Epigraphical Society, Harrow and Hillingdon Geological Society, Friends of the Geological Society, and for a teachers' conference in NHM.

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 possible trail organised by Grove Park residents in the New Cross Cutting, to a request to work with artist Dee McLean on the geology section of Hampstead Heath for her book on climate change.

The Thames Tideway project at Battersea was visited to try to get some geological interpretation into their legacy plans. Samples and a section were provided from the Chambers Wharf site.

Research was continued on uses and origins of 'iron-cemented' conglomerates in the GLA.

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 4 candidate LIGS need posting on the website and all 18 Candidate RIGS/LIGS still need to be added to the interactive map. The details of the first tranche of 30 SGIs are posted on the website also still need to be added to the interactive map.
- 4.2 The website has been updated as and when appropriate. Flickr and Twitter accounts have been added. Events have been tweeted.
- 4.4 An article on the Rockingham Anomaly project was written up in the GA Magazine. We were delighted that a portion of one of Gail's artworks was used for the front cover. We hope to add the article to LGP website once we receive permission from the GA.
- 4.5 The review on the Excavations on Hampstead Heath is nearly completed for publication on our website.

Objective 5: Sustain geodiversity activities in London

Included in other objectives

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

- 6.2 Commented on the London Plan; commented on "London Environment Strategy"
Attended meetings of the London Wildlife Sites Board and the GiGL Advisory Group
- 6.3 Initiated involvement with the National Park City project