

GeoConservationUK Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 3

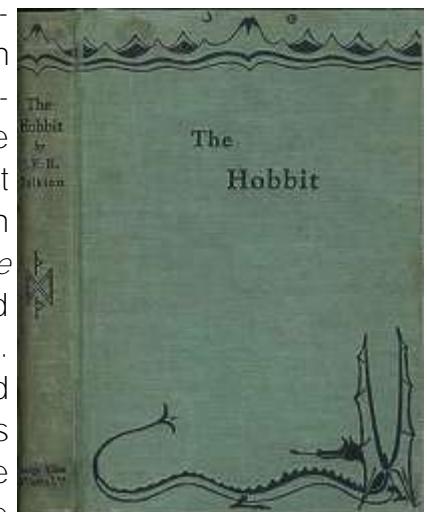
21st September 2012



On this day in . . . two gems were released to the world.

On the same date in 1999 that this *GCUK Newsletter* is published, a massive earthquake shook Taiwan, at 1.47am local time on a Tuesday morning, killing almost 2,500 people and injuring another 5,000. With a magnitude of 7.6 it was centred approximately 160 km southwest of the capital Taipei. Aftershocks, up to a magnitude of 6.5, continued until the Sunday of 25th September.

On a much happier note, on the same date in 2008 a massive diamond was found in the Letseng diamond mine in Lesotho; at an elevation of 3,100 metres it is the world's highest working diamond mine. The diamond weighed 478 carats and could produce a single 150 carat stone when cut. Now, thinking of other (albeit literary) gems, J.R.R. Tolkien's ***The Hobbit*** was first published on the same date in 1937; the cloth cover of the first edition (see right) incorporated a drawing by Tolkien. His publisher, delighted by the book's critical and financial success, requested a sequel. As Tolkien wrote ***The Lord of the Rings*** he retrospectively adapted ***The Hobbit*** in its second edition to link the two works. Numerous editions followed and both books have remained in print for the last seventy or so years. Geology books generally do not achieve such longevity in continuous print. However, one of the classic literary 'geology gems' Charles Lyell's ***Principles of Geology***, first published in 1830, has been reprinted in the present century.



EDITORIAL

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Welcome to the third of this year's planned *Newsletters* and a very big "thanks", especially the usual stalwarts, to the contributors; now if you think your region has been 'neglected' this year you could always put finger to keyboard and email me your story. There are several worrying stories on the planning and geoconservation front, the most significant being Siccar Point. It is difficult for anyone steeped in the history of geology to understand how such a globally significant site and its surrounding area can fail to fully impress its cultural and geotourism value upon any planning department or officer. However, with the particular company's seeming past encouragement to 'geotourists' it is to be hoped that a fully informed constructive dialogue will lead to a workable solution for their effluent treatment needs and that of preserving the scientific and aesthetic appeal of the site and its surroundings can be achieved.

TOM HOSE

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ENGLAND — *Dorset's Important Geological Sites Group*

Upney Road Cutting

The DIGS group has been employed by Dorset County Council to improve the exposure of the Portland / Purbeck boundary at the Upwey road cutting (*see immediately right*) next to the Weymouth Relief Road (A354) [GR SY674851]. A group worked for a couple of mornings to clear loose debris that had been placed over the site by contractors. We thought we had exposed the boundary after the first session but after consultation with Ian West he thought that the boundary is actually lower down the succession and we had to work further west on the second session to expose the boundary. The Portland limestone is seen in a former quarry on the west side of the railway bridge (now in the garden of a private residence) and part of the Purbeck sequence is seen in a **former quarry higher up the scarp slope again west of the railway line**. See **Ian West's website** for pictures taken during the construction of the Relief Road. If you have not visited the site it is really worth the effort as the exposure of the Purbeck Beds especially on the track / bridleway to Bayard Dairy is really excellent. Parking is possible at the side of the old road leading to the northbound A354 and Bincombe. Site details can be found at:

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/~imw/Ridgeway-Railway-Cutting.htm>

Poxwell Quarry

The DIGS group held a joint session with some members of Wessex OUGS in early September; this was to undertake work on the former quarry site at Poxwell (OS: GR SY743835). This quarry (*see immediately right*) also has an exposure of the Portland / Purbeck boundary and is part of the Poxwell Pericline fold structure. After spending the morning clearing the summer's vegetation growth the group walked the Poxwell Pericline. This walk provides an excellent example of the relationship between geology and topography with the succession going up from the Kimmeridge Clay in the core of the pericline to the Chalk. A leaflet is available for this walk from DIGS.

Alan Holiday



GeoConservationUK Newsletter

ENGLAND — *GeoSuffolk*

A New Geology Book for Suffolk

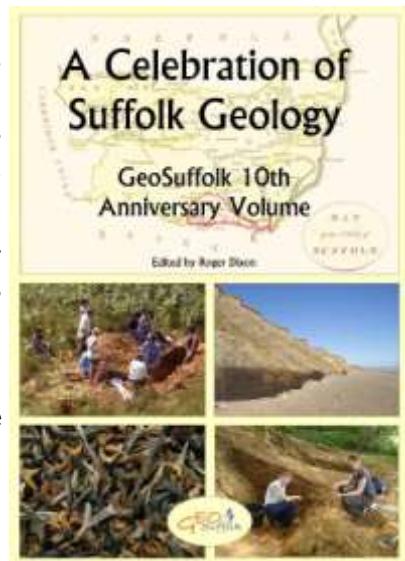
A new book, ***A Celebration of Suffolk Geology*** (see immediately right), was published by GeoSuffolk at its 10th AGM on 12th May, 2012. It is in A4 paperback format with 476 pages illustrated in colour. Key chapters include 'The Chalk of Suffolk' by Mark A Woods, Rory N Mortimore and Christopher J Wood - a long overdue review with a previously unpublished A3 fold out of the Project Orwell tunnel sections at Ipswich. Other seminal chapters include 'The Red, Norwich and Wroxham Crags of Northern Suffolk' by Richard J O Hamblin and James Rose, together with 'The Orfordness Shingle - Geomorphology and Geology' by Christopher Green and Duncan McGregor.

With 37 chapters by 43 authors, there is something for all tastes - quite literally. The Pliocene Deli - a culinary trawl though the Red Crag written by the book's editor Roger Dixon, suggests recipes from around the world for (Red Crag) molluscs, vertebrates, fruit and vegetables. Other GeoSuffolk members have contributed their own research projects, such as: Ann Ainsworth and John Hudson's look at the fauna of a unique Red Crag palaeo-environment in The Chicken Pit at Sutton Knoll; the Boulder Bed Excavation, Preliminary Report; Howard Mottram's review of the Norwich Crag gravels; The Norwich Crag Geology of the country round Westleton; Caroline Markham's study of Devensian fluvial landforms; and Gulls of East Suffolk. All of these well written informative chapters add to our understanding of Suffolk's Earth heritage.

The launch event for ***A Celebration of Suffolk Geology*** on 12th May was also GeoSuffolk's 10th birthday party. Attended by 50+ people - sponsors, contributors, and GeoSuffolk members it was held at the Reg Driver Centre in Christchurch Park in Ipswich. Like all good birthday parties it had a warm-up act - speeches by Bob Markham and Roger Dixon; presents - the 'launch' by Lord Cranbrook with books for the authors and sponsors and a glass of champagne; a magician - a delicious buffet lunch thanks to Rosemary Dixon and M&S; games - a geo-tour of the park by Bob Markham, with sarsen stones much to the fore and tree-planting (see above right) to commemorate our anniversary by Rory Mortimore, President of the GA, with Barry Hall. The weather was fabulous throughout and the event and publication a big success for GeoSuffolk. ***A Celebration of Suffolk Geology*** costs £20 (£28 with p&p) - to buy contact GeoSuffolk via: info@geosuffolk.co.uk. A full list of contents can be seen the dedicated page on the Suffolk Naturalists' Society web site at:

http://www.boxvalley.co.uk/nature/sns/org/suff_geo.asp

Caroline Markham



Rory Mortimore planting a Fitzroya cupressoides (outreach from GeoSuffolk's 'Pliocene Forest at Rockhall Wood SSSI – see December 2011 GCUK Newsletter) in Christchurch Park, Ipswich. From left to right: Lord Cranbrook, Sally Ann Mottram, Rory Mortimore, Joan Hardingham, Mareike Mayhew, David Mayhew, David Waterhouse, Barry Hall.

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ENGLAND — *Sheffield Area Geology Trust 2008 - 2012*

Many geoconservation groups in England were established during the 1990s, including the South Yorkshire RIGS Group which was inaugurated in 1991. The South Yorkshire RIGS Group covers the four district Local Authority areas within South Yorkshire, including the areas within the Peak District National Park. During the 1990s, RIGS sites were identified working together with Sheffield City Museum for the Sheffield City Council area, followed by basic baseline RIGS surveys in Barnsley MB in 1996, Rotherham MB in 1997, followed by RIGS survey work funded by Doncaster MBC in 1997. In 2007, Doncaster MBC Planning funded a Site Assessment review of the RIGS sites, and in 2008 published the Doncaster GAP

The Sheffield Area Geology Trust (SAGT) first met in September 2008, and incorporated the South Yorkshire RIGS Group and the Sheffield Building Stones Group. SAGT now manages the four geological records centres that cover Barnsley MB, Doncaster MB, Rotherham MB and City of Sheffield. SAGT has been developing a digital database, that may support the work of four geological record centres. SAGT has been aiming to build a working relationship with all five Planning Authorities. At present, there are different terminologies and definitions of Local Sites within each of the four LAs, and different terminologies used by planning within Sheffield City Council area between the Sheffield Planning area and the Peak District National Park Authority area. Local Geological Sites Panels/Partnerships and Geodiversity Partnerships have been developed and supported in the four Local Authority Areas, with SAGT acting as the lead and administrative point of contact for the LGSPs in Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield. SAGT is supporting the development of the Peak District LNP and has participated in the development to establish the South Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership.

We have been involved in some site assessments, some of which has been funded, but the financial basis of the group remains fragile. We have also been involved in more usually publicised GT activities, such as projects involving interpretation, walks and talks. SAGT still has a long way to go, but the time spent putting **strong foundations for an effective geoconservation presence in the area, closely linked to local decision-making bodies** has been well spent.

Rick Ramsdale

NEWS ITEM — *Keeping Information and Contacts Up-to-Date*

A real issue, with all of us being so busy these days, is keeping up with the sheer volume of emails and snail mail that daily arrives. Addressing the various queries arising can be a time-consuming process, made worse when contact details are out-of-date. Members from several groups have sometimes reported **they weren't aware of some key message or hadn't seen a particular document, let alone the latest copy of the Newsletter!**

Every time we do a central email shot the number of non-delivered emails seems to get bigger; likewise when the *Newsletter* is emailed out to member groups and some individuals! We rely upon member group chairs or secretaries to forward on these various communications and the *Newsletter* to their group's members.

So, as a start to addressing this matter, we're including in this and future issues of the *Newsletter* a summary of items sent out by the GCUK Secretary. Please do keep us informed of any changes in your contact details and we'll do our best to incorporate these in our filing system. I'm sure we won't get it right all or every time but we'll try our best to please!

Tom Hose



GeoConservationUK Newsletter

SCOTLAND — Strathclyde Geoconservation Group

Visit to See the Geology of Culzean Country Park—4th August, 2012

In response to an invitation from Neil Smith who is based at the Dolphin House in Culzean Country Park a number of members of the Strathclyde Geoconservation Group visited the foreshore there to look at the geology and see if we could come up with answers to some puzzles. Dolphin House is an outdoor education centre located in the grounds of Culzean Country Park and is run on behalf of South Ayrshire Council. Culzean Castle was built in the 18th century and both the Castle and the Country Park are well worth a visit in themselves. A leaflet on the geology of the Park was written a number of years ago and an up-to-date version would be desirable.

The visit started at the side of the bunkhouse where there is an exposure of the lavas present in the area. Here there is evidence of two flows with red bole on the surface of the lower layer. The dip of the beds in this area could be clearly seen here and as our group are interested in the links between

biodiversity and geodiversity it was interesting to note that the ivy growing there appeared to grow out of the red bole. Further along the exposed lava showed signs of aa type flow. The predominant lavas in this area are Lower Old Red Sandstone andesites, and are thought to emanate from a centre about two miles to the east.



On the foreshore below Dolphin House is a small round building which the Victorian ladies used to change in before their swim. This **has been built atop a lava outcrop that contained one of the day's first puzzles** – a crescent shaped infill that appeared to be a mix of calcite, quartz and zeolite (*see immediately left*). How it came to be formed was a topic of some discussion!

Proceeding along the beach in the direction of the Castle, the next exposure was a dolerite dyke, one of the many Tertiary dykes on this coast, and possibly one from the Arran volcanic centre. The large stack next to the boathouse is a fascinating example of lavas being erupted into saturated sediments. There are several large pillow lavas with numerous inclusions of layered sedimentary rock. The lavas are vesicular and amygdaloidal (*see immediately right*) and the vesicles are filled with calcite with a green coloured coating. Puzzle number two was what was the green coating on the inside of the vesicles. The main suggestion was that it is some copper mineral, possibly malachite. Further round, there was a large geode within the lavas filled with quartz and calcite – and in a further biodiversity / geodiversity connection it was noted that the geode was surrounded by snails making full use of the calcite.



Clambering further along the shore we came to the rocks beneath the Castle in which there are caves. The caves have in the past been associated with smuggling but now are kept behind locked gates for protection. Inside is a fascinating world of rock formations due to the water which percolates **through the rocks. There are numerous 'straws' hanging from the roof and also 'bacon' formations.** There were small pools in which small pebbles had been coated with calcite. The formations in the caves are those normally found in limestone caves – but these caves are in the basalt lavas – the calcium carbonate forming the formations within the caves coming from the calcite amygdalites in the rocks as well as weathering of the lavas by rainwater.

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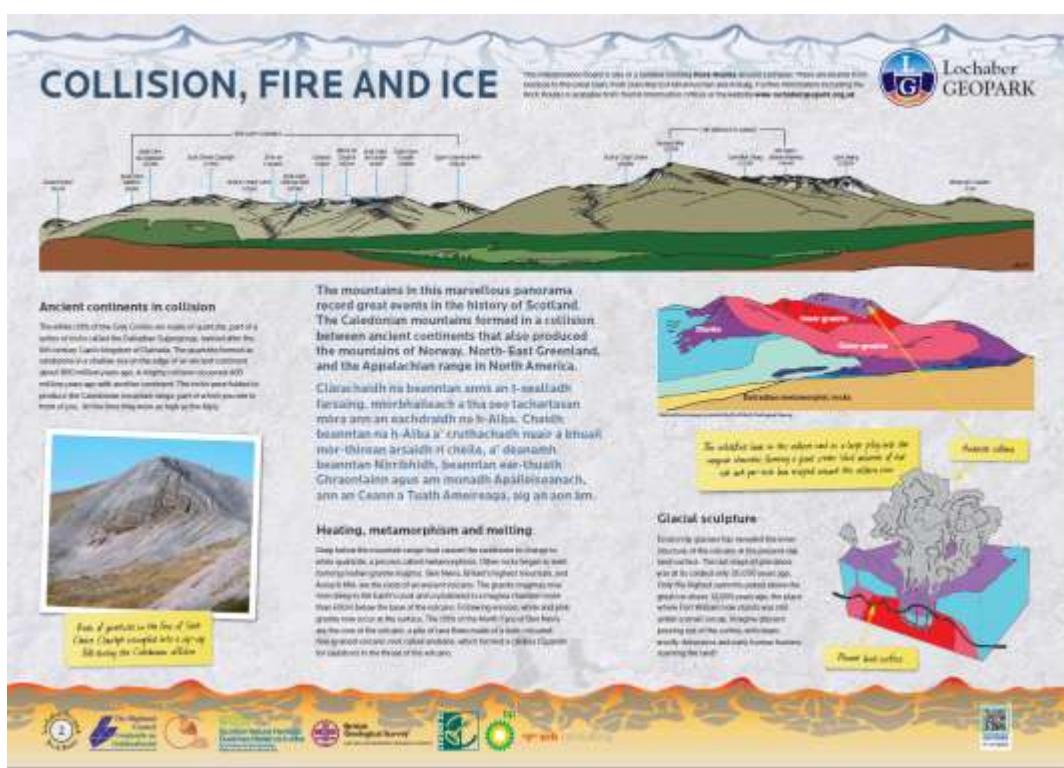
SCOTLAND — *Strathclyde Geoconservation Group (cont.)*

Returning to Dolphin House, the next locality was through the Country Park to behind the Segganwells holiday cottages. Glaciation has left its mark around Culzean with the presence of raised beaches but also in the steep hidden gorge at Segganwell cut though the Devonian sandstone by glacial meltwater. Carrying on down to the beach (*see right*) at this point more of the sandstone can be seen in the cliffs behind the beach and on the beach itself. A number of interesting structures can be seen in the sandstone – cross-bedding, channel structures, slumps and folds produced by dewatering. We proceeded along the beach away from the castle as far as another of the Tertiary dykes, which shows good evidence of cooling margins. We walked back along the beach towards the Old Gas House, stopping at the promontory before this to examine and discuss the volcanic outcrop. Another puzzle! Outlines of columnar joints could be picked out in the outcrop – was this a sill or a flow? A fitting end-point discussion to an interesting day in the field.



Margaret Greene

SCOTLAND — *Lochaber Geopark public exhibition*



From Monday 3rd September until Saturday 15th September (but not Sunday 9th September), the Lochaber Geopark held a public exhibition of twenty of its new geological interpretation panels; these were all installed during 2011-12 in Lochaber.

The panels are located at scenically spectacular viewpoints

throughout Lochaber. We believe that they set new standards in explaining to the general public how scenery is related to geology. An example of one of the panels gives an idea of their general form and appearance.

The free exhibition was held in the Ben Nevis Distillery Visitor Centre, Fort William, and was formally opened by Charles Kennedy MP on 3rd September.

Jim Blair



GeoConservationUK Newsletter

News Item — Siccar Point

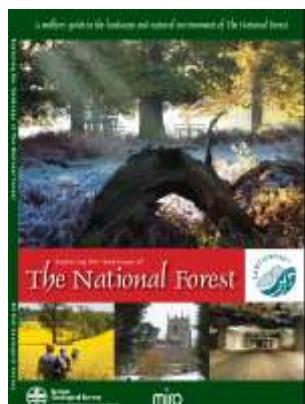
As some of you will already know, due to the wide circulation of the story across the geoconservation community, the area adjacent to Hutton's classic locality at Siccar Point is the subject of a planning application by Drysdales; over the years this company has been quite accommodating to geological visitors and has even funded a small car park. Their application covers a change to the way they treat their waste products and contentiously includes an effluent pipe that will cross the shore and discharge into the sea. Just about every geoconservation body has raised concerns about the application that was quietly creeping through the planning process because of limited publicity. However a local resident's website savesiccarpoint.co.uk changed all that! The deadline for objections was then extended to 23rd September. It is to be hoped that common sense, geoconservation and geotourism prevail.

News Item — New BGS Publication review

The BGS publication ***Exploring the Landscape of The National Forest*** mentioned in the last Newsletter has received favourable reviews elsewhere and it would be remiss not to give it some further attention. It is a well and attractively designed pocketable A5 text, and very affordable at just £6.95. the latter is especially the more remarkable given the quality of paper and printing employed. The full-colour illustrations, often a quarter or half-page in size, are superbly reproduced in quite fine detail, but some would benefit from the inclusion of a scale. The design, quality and legibility of both diagrams and maps are also excellent. What is also to be welcomed is that the font is readily legible.

The text itself is generally very readable, although a little complex in places — somewhat raising its reading age — and assumes some knowledge of both geology and archaeology. However, it is good to see the two, along with biodiversity, integrated in the various accounts. The inclusion of social and industrial history and especially, given the nearness of Burton upon Trent to The National Forest, the brewing industry will undoubtedly broaden the book's potential readership. The sequencing of its content has been well thought through to guide the reader from the natural resource base (the geology and hydrology!) to its manufacturing uses and finally their combined impact on the landscape, the ideal introduction to the ten included walks.

These ten walks are simply described, although their use in the field has not been tested by the reviewer, but the incorporation of simplified geology maps might prove a challenge to those more used to the OS map extracts and roughly drawn sketch maps commonly employed in most modern walking guides. The selection of walks covers a broad range of localities and interests, from town trails to attractive rural areas; each of the circular routes, of around 10 km, could provide an enjoyable and leisurely half-day excursion. It is just a pity, but not surprising with the sparseness of rural bus services these days, that most seem to require a car to get to the start point; however, it would have been helpful to have indicated the nearest public transport access route. Now, a cycle trail would have been very welcome! Also welcome would have been a map within the book showing the location of each of the walks within The National Forest.



The book provides an excellent companion volume to ***Exploring the Landscape of Charnwood Forest and Mountsorrel*** as most of Charnwood Forest is within The National Forest. If BGS can maintain the quality of content, writing and print reproduction it should be encouraged, as means to promote its usefulness to a wider audience than just geologists, to produce further similar volumes for other National Forests and classic areas of British geology.

Tom Hose

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M E E T I N G S and C O N F E R E N C E S

GCUK AGM at the GA 'Festival of Geology' in London (10th November 2012)

The GeoConservationUK AGM this year is again being held in conjunction with the Geologists' Association 'Festival of Geology'. It will be held at 1 pm in the Natural Sciences Common Room, Room 10, First Floor, South Wing [opposite the Garwood Lecture Theatre], University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT.

At the AGM there will be elections for four Members of the Executive Committee. In accordance with Rule 14 (e) nominations for election to these posts are now sought. The nomination form recently sent out to all member groups must be used; it should be returned, accompanied by a statement from the nominee, to the Secretary by the 12th of October 2012 to ensure mailing to members with the AGM papers. These may be submitted in hard copy (to the address below) or electronically to lesley.dunlop@northumbria.ac.uk copied to info@geoconservationuk.org.uk

In accordance with Rule 14(f) the Executive Committee and all full member groups may submit items to be included on the agenda of the AGM. Proposed amendments must be received by GCUK, at the address below, by 12th October 2012 to ensure mailing to members with the AGM papers. These may be submitted electronically. The final notice of the AGM, Agenda and Nomination papers will be sent to groups by the 19th October 2012.

Subscriptions to GCUK are now due and groups should pay their dues, using the appropriate form also recently mailed out, to the Treasurer..

Lesley Dunlop

Secretary, GeoConservationUK
School of Built and Natural Environment
Northumbria University
D208 Ellison Building
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 8ST

NEWS ITEM — *Recent GCUK Emailings to Groups*

The following emails have recently been sent out to groups:

- ◊ 4 July 2012 — Minutes of 88th Meeting, How to find a contact at Natural England, Subscriptions, Local Nature Partnerships and AGM information.
- ◊ 3 August 2012 — Information relating to survey on Conservation Covenants.
- ◊ 4 September 2012 — Request for items for discussion at next Executive Committee meeting, AGM and subscription reminder.
- ◊ 19 September 2012 — AGM first mailing, Call for nominations and agenda items, Minutes of the 89th meeting of the GCUK Executive Committee.

Please contact do me (at lesley.dunlop@northumbria.ac.uk) if you have not received any or all of them as the contact details we currently hold for your group might now be incorrect. *Lesley Dunlop*



GeoConservationUK Newsletter

MEETINGS and CONFERENCES

Appreciating Physical Landscapes (22nd - 23rd October 2012)

Monday 22nd October 2012	
08.30	Registration & Tea, Coffee & Biscuits
09.20	Welcome and Introduction Thomas A. Hose (Conference Convenor)
09.30	KEYNOTE: Reason to Believe: Dragons, New Science and Public Perceptions of the Prehistoric World Prof. David Norman (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge)
10.10	Eugene von Guérard: a geognostic landscape painter in Australia Ruth Puffin (National Gallery, Australia)
10.30	Posters & Tea, Coffee & Biscuits
11.00	Geotourism as documented and photographed by the Geologists' Association from 1858 Jonathan Lawford (Geologists' Association/Natural England)
11.20	The role of Local Societies in the Early Geotourism Movement, the Chester Society of Natural Sciences: a Case Study Cynthia Burek ¹ & Thomas A. Hose ² ¹ (Centre for Science Communication, University of Chester) ² (School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol)
11.40	Dovedale and J W Jackson's legacy Ros Westwood (Derbyshire Museums)
12.00	Lunch (no lunch provided for delegates)
13.00	KEYNOTE: Appreciating geology and the physical landscape in Scotland: from the 'tourism of awe' to 'experiential re-engagement' Prof. John E. Gordon (School of Geography and Geosciences, University of St Andrews)
13.40	Visitors to the Northern Playgrounds: Tourists and Some Science from North Norway Brian Whalley (University of Sheffield)
14.00	From tourism to geotourism, a glance to the French northern alps: historical cases Nathalie Cayla (Laboratoire EDYTEM UMR CNRS-Université de Savoie, France)
14.20	Comfort Break
14.30	Appreciating Loess Landscapes through History: the Basis of Modern Loess Geotourism in the Vojvodina Region of North Serbia Djordje A. Vasiljević ¹ , Tin Lukić ¹ , Slobodan B. Marković ¹ , Thomas A. Hose ² , Miroslav D. Vujić ¹ , Bojana Basarin ¹ ¹ Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad, Serbia). ² (School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol)
14.50	From the History of Geotourism and Geological Monuments of Russia (an Example of Geological Monuments of the Leningrad region Maria Tsimkoburova (Department Historical and Dynamic Geology, Faculty of Geological Prospecting, St. Petersburg Mining University, Russia)
15.10	Rediscovering geoheritage, reinventing geotourism – 200 years of experience from the Sudetes, Central Europe Piotr Migór (Department of Geography and Regional Development, University of Wrocław, Poland)
15.30	Posters & Tea, Coffee & Biscuits
16.00	Thomas Compton and the Hirnantian rocks of North Wales Keith Nichols ¹ & Cynthia Burek ² ¹ (Department of Biological Sciences, University of Chester) ² (Centre for Science Communication, University of Chester)
16.20	From Geological Travels between the 18th and the 19th Centuries to Modern Geotourism: the case-study of the geo-historical trip of Carlo Amoretti in the Pre-Alps. Liberia Paola Arena (Università degli studi di Bari, Italy)
16.40	In the Shadow of Inspiration: Canada's National Parks and Beyond Julian Ashbourn
17.00	Closing Ceremony John Henry (HOGG Chair)
17.15	Poster Exhibition Discussion Session
18.00	Wine Reception (in Lower Library)
19.00	Depart for Conference Dinner (optional)

This international conference is now only a month away. The programme of papers (see left) and poster presentations has been assembled from a reviewed selection of the submitted abstracts; many of the these, together with additional material, will be the basis of a post-conference book. The paper day includes in the modest registration price (£45.00 to HOGG/Geological Society/ GA members) the *Conference Abstracts* volume, refreshments, and a wine reception! The day after the conference there is a railway-based excursion, partly in the footsteps of a 19th century GA excursion, to Margate looking at coastal geology and geotourism localities. Conference details and a registration form are on the Geological Society web-site at: www.geolsoc.org.uk/geotourism12

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
October 22nd-23rd, 2012

**Appreciating Physical Landscapes:
Geotourism 1670–1970**

The Geological Society, London

Geotourism's burgeoning literature has tended to focus on descriptive and case studies of modern interpretative and promotional provision in protected areas and geoparks. The significant historical antecedents of modern geotourism in Britain and Europe are comparatively neglected in the literature, whilst these antecedents can be traced back to the élite 17th century travellers who ventured into wild landscapes and visited caves and mines, early modern geotourism, with many of the features of its present-day provision, can be recognised if not so named from the opening of the 18th century. This is a period more than coincided with the emergence of modern scientific geology and the beginnings of excursion tourism, the organised publication of regional geology guide-books and geology field excursions followed from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The conference's timeline coincides with the early reporting of élite travellers and the publication of the first travellers' guide-books and, closer at the cusp of modern landscape and conservation measures, such as national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty, national nature reserves and the emergence of environmental interpretation and modern countryside leisure as forerunners to modern geopark provision.

Summary Conference Information

The conference is held between 22-23 October 2012 (2 days) in the Lower Library, Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BD. Tel: 020 7434 8944, Fax: 020 7434 8579. E-mail: events@geolsoc.org.uk or www.geolsoc.org.uk/geotourism12

Accommodation Details

See www.geolsoc.org.uk/geotourism12 for details of local accommodation.



GeoConservationUK Newsletter

MEETINGS and CONFERENCES



GeoConservationUK acknowledges the support of *Rockhounds Welcome!* in the production of this Newsletter

Ed Derbyshire Meeting: Loess in China & Europe (27th - 30th September 2012)



This international conference in Serbia celebrates and develops the work of Edward Derbyshire. Edward was a pioneer and promoter of international scientific collaboration, especially between Chinese and European loess researchers. The conference will promote loess research on the global scale; the conference title highlights the huge Eurasian loess belt. However, it is not restricted to those regions and the participation of colleagues who work on all temporal and other aspects of dust deposition around the world will be most welcomed. Equally, the conference will also examine how best to conserve and promote loess studies and loess landscapes; the latter should be of particular interest to UK geoconservationists, just a few of whom have already booked their places!

Amongst the planned sessions are: those on

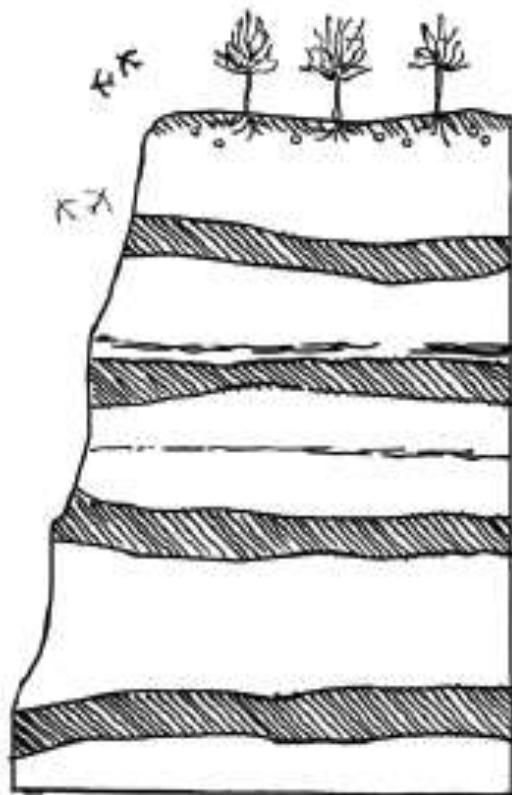
- » Loess Landforms Dynamics
- » Eurasian Loess
- » Loess and the Record of Paleolithic Cultures
- » Reconstruction of Loess Environments
- » Dust and Man
- » Loess as Geoheritage: Geoconservation & Geotourism

The latter session will be chaired by Tom Hose of GCUK. Following the conference a series of publications will promote and disseminate the papers and posters in, for example, *Catena*, *Quaternary International*, and *Geographica Pannonica*. The conference is being held in Novi Sad, Serbia on the River Danube. It will include two days of field-trips.

Further details of the conference are available from the:

Official email: ed2012meeting@dgt.uns.ac.rs

Official website: www.inqua-loess.org/ed80s/



GeoConservationUK Executive Committee

Chair: Mike Browne - Lothian and Borders
GeoConservation Group

Treasurer: Alan Cutler - Black Country Geological Society

Committee Members:

Dr. Ken Addison - Gwynedd and Mon RIGS
Keith Ambrose - Leicestershire and Rutland RIGS

Prof. Cynthia Burek - NEWRIGS

Dr. Kevin Crawford - Cheshire RIGS

Dr. Thomas A. Hose - Buckinghamshire Earth Heritage Group

Dr. Jacqui Malpas - Association of Welsh RIGS Groups

Angus Miller - Scottish Geodiversity Forum

Rick Ramsdale - Sheffield Area Geology Trust

John Reynolds - GeoConservation Staffordshire

Sam Scriven - Dorset's Important Geological/
Geomorphological Sites

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