
Suffolk Geodiversity Partnership

Newsletter No.1

June 2008

Welcome to the first issue of the Suffolk Geodiversity Partnership Newsletter.

So far we have held two SGP meetings, on 08.11.07 and 18.03.08 and GeoSuffolk's three new leaflets (church building stones and flint) have been circulated. We are seeking funds to reprint the Geodiversity leaflet. The purpose of the newsletter is to update partners with news, achievements and activities of the SGP. It is in single-page format so it is easy to read and can be passed on to anyone who is interested.

- Caroline Markham (Secretary GeoSuffolk)

www.geosuffolk.co.uk

SGP Meeting 18th March

There were 3 key outcomes from the meeting at Natural England's Bury St Edmunds offices:

- The Suffolk Geodiversity Action Plan needs more discussion to agree a version for publication, before any talk of structures to implement it becomes meaningful.
- Working groups might include *Coast & Offshore; Fundraising; Extractive Sites; Public Awareness* (to include *Education and Learning*), as well as those identified in November *Soils & Biodiversity; Geo-conservation; Historic Environment; Local Sites; Landscape & Planning; Tourism, Leisure and Green Infrastructure; SGAP*.
- Site designation should choose a small number of important sites and discuss management with the landowners (rather than listing numerous assets and trying to designate them). A list of sites could form a county GCR for publication on the WWW like the Historic Environment Record database (the old SMR).
- Tim Holt-Wilson

Planning News

GeoSuffolk has made submissions to planning consultations: the E A's Shoreline Management Plan; Suffolk CC Minerals Core Strategy; '1App' (standard planning application form); also Ipswich BC, Waveney DC and Broads Authority Local Development Frameworks.

For more information on the SGP and Suffolk GAP contact Tim Holt-Wilson (SGP Co-ordinator)
timholtwilson@onetel.com

Geology in the Forest: SGP Meeting

The next SGP meeting will be on Tuesday July 8th at the Santon Downham Forest Centre near Brandon, thanks to Rachel Riley, Environmental Forester for Forest Enterprise. A short indoor session is planned for the morning to discuss Bob Markham's *Filling the Gap* ideas for the Suffolk GAP, with a brief introduction to *Geology in the Forest* (Bob is Chairman of GeoSuffolk). In the afternoon we will visit geodiversity sites close by to discuss possible conservation and public interpretation ideas with Rachel. This meeting is of interest to all those who wish to have input to the Suffolk GAP development and also to those with leisure, tourism and education interests. Please contact C Markham if you wish to have further details of this meeting.

Mid-Suffolk District Council

Aggregates Trail project

This excellent geodiversity public awareness project is up and running. Led by Project Manager Carrie Bewick, the geodiversity of the Gipping valley between Needham Market and Barham is interpreted with leaflets, information panels and an education pack. Did you know for example that a fossil Woolly Rhino jaw found locally featured on Blue Peter? There is also an interesting mix of biodiversity and industrial archaeology information. To find out more read Carrie's newsletters on

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/Tourism+and+Countryside/Discovery+Project/Aggregates+Trail.htm>

Use of the Gipping valley for aggregates extraction meant that this project was eligible for an Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Grant. An SGP meeting featuring this project at Needham Market is planned for the autumn.

Funding News

Natural England has allocated £15,000 for Regional Geodiversity Action Plan development in 2008-09, with Suffolk's proportion to be discussed.
- T Holt-Wilson

Next SGP meeting
Santon Downham Forest
Centre on July 8th