



Welcome to the 8th Geo-East Newsletter.  
Caroline Markham 09.11.09  
[caroline.markham1@btinternet.com](mailto:caroline.markham1@btinternet.com)

### Geo-East Meeting 19.10.09, Cambridge

**Chalk East** – Summer 2009 was the first season of Chalk East project work, supported by a new *Chalk in the East* leaflet.

- Cambridgeshire - Cherry Hinton chalk pit open day supported by Cambridge Geology Club + Friends of Sedgwick Museum stall.
- Essex - Chafford Gorges event with guided geological walks and drop-in activities for children with RockWatch; a trail leaflet is underway.
- Hertfordshire - Chalk conference at St Albans and field trip in the Dunstable area.
- Suffolk – ‘Chalk-tastic’ event at Ipswich Museum with fossil identification and craftwork activities for children.
- Norfolk - Fossil identification day in the Forum, Norwich.

### **Geo-East update**

- Beds and Luton Geology Group: liaising with Luton Borough Council and AHOB about geodiversity interpretation at Kidney Wood clay pits and Marsh Farm, Leagrave.
- Chalk in arts and education: Norwich Puppet Theatre has a funding bid for a ‘Chalk Giant’ project bringing outreach to Chalk sites along the Icknield Way.
- Cambridge Geology Club: creating a website for the group and listing 100 places to visit.
- The Sedgwick Museum: partners collaborating to revamp local geology displays at the Museum, also booklets covering *The Chalk Hills*, *The Clay Lands* and *The Fenland*.
- The Association of Local Government Ecologists is drafting a Planning Toolkit for biodiversity; it is hoped to include geodiversity; Natural England may have funding.

### **Funding and forward planning 2010-11**

Following a meeting in August, an exciting range of projects has been allocated to the £25,000 funding promised by Natural England. New funding rules from NE mean that recipients will need to sign Memorandums of Agreement and must have public liability insurance. If it is to receive NE funding next year Geo-East will need to become a constituted body.

Tim Holt-Wilson

### Dates for your diary

Next Geo-East steering group meeting **January 25th 2010** in Cambridge.

**Geo-East AGM April 2010** – everyone welcome

### GeoConservationUK

This is the new name of UKRIGS. I attended their AGM in London on October 31st and this name-change was instituted alongside a change in the constitution to allow Local Geological Site (England), Local Geodiversity Site (Scotland) and Regionally Important Geodiversity Site (Wales) to be used as Local Site designations alongside RIGS. CM

### Why No Geology Map

.....in the *Chalk in the East* leaflet? (see [www.geo-east.org.uk](http://www.geo-east.org.uk)) I did experiment with this, but:

- Very large areas of Chalk shown on ‘bedrock’ geology maps are hidden by overlying deposits.
- Small outcrops of Chalk shown on ‘superficial’ maps do not easily scale down.
- Cliff exposures of Chalk (under later deposits) show little or no outcrop on maps.
- Some people live on chalk not shown on geological maps – these are large glacial erratics.

I eventually decided that the map used gives a simple guide to the western outcrop of the Chalk and to the fewer outcrops to the east. Bob Markham

### County Events

**Essex Gem and Mineral Show** - run by the Essex Rock and Mineral Society, this event in Romford is well worth a visit – February 20th 2010 10am-4pm. See [www.erms.org](http://www.erms.org) for more information.

**Geological Society of Norfolk Lecture** - Quaternary Evolution of the Thetford District by Helen Burke & Jonathan Lee on November 12th at 7.30pm, Norwich. See [www.norfolkgeology.co.uk](http://www.norfolkgeology.co.uk) for more information.

**Rock and Fossil Workshop** - at the end of January Beds & Luton Geology Group intend to hold a Rock and Fossil Workshop, date to be decided – see <http://www.bedsrigs.org.uk/events.php#ev20091107>

The website is now launched at [www.geo-east.org.uk](http://www.geo-east.org.uk) -the photo gallery and discussion forum are interactive – why not have a go?