



Promoting Earth Heritage in Beds, Cambs, Essex, Herts, Norfolk and Suffolk

Welcome to Geo-East Newsletter No.9

Geo-East has completed its first year of activity, thanks to funding by Natural England. Our website has been launched at www.geo-east.org.uk, including our Chalk East pages, and it continues to attract an increasing number of hits. Partners have been involved in a wide range of local projects and also regional work, including projects under the Chalk East banner. Read on to find out more.

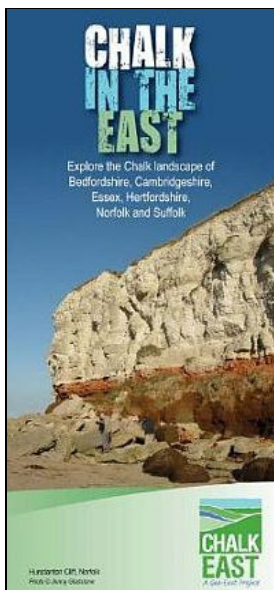
Our principal funder Natural England has not been immune to the Government's

review of public expenditure. This has come when we were just about to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with NE for £16,000 worth of projects. See Regional News section for the latest on the Big Freeze.

Please pass this Newsletter to your friends and colleagues, and also send us your own geodiversity news. Our warm thanks go to Caroline Markham for her work in previous editions.

Chalk East News

Chalk East is raising awareness of the importance of Chalk geodiversity to the landscape and economy of the East of England region, including its links with wildlife. Looking back over the year 2009/10, Chalk East-related work has included:



- 'Chalk in the East' – an A3 leaflet exploring eleven publicly accessible sites in the Chalk landscape of the region (compiled by GeoSuffolk; downloadable from www.geo-east.org.uk/newsletters/leaflets/chalkleaflet1lr.pdf).
- 'The Royston Chalk Edge' – an illustrated booklet explaining the geology and landscape of the Chalk escarpment near Royston (published by the Friends of the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge; email Peter Friend at pff1000@esc.cam.ac.uk for a copy).
- A Chalk geology display at Ware Museum, Herts (installed by the East Herts Geology Club; contact the Museum on 01920-487 848).



- 'The Chalk Walk' – an A3 leaflet exploring the Chalk geology of the Chafford Gorges Nature Park, Thurrock, Essex (published by GeoEssex; available price £1.00 from the Visitor Centre; contact 01375-484 016).
- 'Chalk-tastic! – a creative event for children with Chalk fossil identification at Ipswich Museum, Suffolk (run by GeoSuffolk; see <http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk/>).
- 'Chalk's Away!' – two Chalk fossil identification events at The Forum, Norwich, with chalk information posters (run by the Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership).

Jenny Gladstone writes:

'Chalk's Away' at The Forum, Norwich

We were given a free stall in 2010 to compensate for the deafening music which dogged us in 2009. The event went very well, there was good publicity and plenty of helpers were kept busy all day. People of all ages brought their fossils to identify, and looked and talked and drew pictures, using Norfolk's own chalk from St James' Pit on Mousehold Heath. Lots of free belemnites and Chalk East leaflets were taken away. We displayed our two new posters on the Chalk and its economic uses. Once again, the Geol Soc Norfolk and the County's Museums and Archaeology Service worked well in partnership with the NGP to raise the profile of Norfolk's geology.



Youthful graphics using local chalk samples

Exciting Chalk East-related work planned for 2010/11 will include:

- **The Chalk Box** - an educational resource engaging University researchers with Norfolk schools to promote greater understanding of the role of the Chalk to life and landscape (the SAW Trust in conjunction with the University of East Anglia).
- **The Chalk Giant** - a touring multimedia puppet project with the theme of giants in the Chalk landscape along the historic Icknield Way (Norwich Puppet Theatre and Indefinite Articles).
- The **Geodiversity of the East Anglian Chalk** discussion meeting.
- **Demonstration lime-burning** at Whitlingham Country Park - constructing a trial kiln to make building lime for use in educational projects (Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership and the Whitlingham Trust).
- **Flint and Chalk Walks** in West Norfolk (the Culture of the Countryside programme of the University of East Anglia).
- A **Chalk walk** route leaflet in Bedfordshire.



An image of a turf-cut Chalk giant said to be formerly at Wandlebury.
(Picture courtesy of CPPF)

Masses of information about the Chalk and its links with landscape, wildlife, economy and culture can be found on the Chalk East web pages at http://www.geo-east.org.uk/special_projects/index.htm.

Chalk East can offer support for Chalk-related projects, through:

- ⇒ Inspiration and expertise - advice from Geo-East specialists in chalk geodiversity;
- ⇒ Funding - channeling funds to support project work;
- ⇒ Graphic identity - an attractive and distinctive badge for the project 'umbrella';
- ⇒ Web presence - the facilities of Geo-East website, including a discussion forum;
- ⇒ Co-ordination - the services of a paid co-ordinator to help support project delivery.

Please contact Geo-East at <http://www.geo-east.org.uk/contact.php> to find out more.



Cambridgeshire geo-sites review

Here's a first for Cambs! The CGC has begun work on an audit of 100 geological sites in the county, and are looking for volunteer assistants to cover all six districts in the county. See the new website at <http://www.cambridgeshiregeologyclub.org.uk/> for more information and contact details.

Norfolk's Earth Heritage

A new 80-page book on Norfolk's Earth heritage is at an advanced draft stage, and will include chapters on the county's geodiversity and the threats to it, and principles and priorities for its conservation. An audit of significant geo-sites and features in the county is published in the 'What's Special' pages of Geo-East website at <http://www.geo-east.org.uk/spages/norfolk.htm>.

Hertfordshire Geology and Landscape

A major new book on Hertfordshire's Earth heritage is soon to be published by the Hertfordshire Natural History Society.

'Hertfordshire Geology and Landscape' will be a landmark publication for the county, which has hitherto lacked an authoritative summary of the county's geodiversity. It will have 10 chapters written by local experts covering the basic geology of the county, and also various aspects of geodiversity and biodiversity. It will present detailed accounts of soils, ecology, agriculture, prehistoric archaeology, hydrogeology, mineral resources and church building stones.

The editor and principal author is Prof John Catt. The book will be about 450 pages long and will be abundantly illustrated with over 200 maps and colour plates.

The committee would be delighted to receive donations, however modest, towards covering the substantial costs of this volume. Sponsors will be listed in the book as acknowledgment and thanks. It is expected to retail at c.£60 with a pre-publication price of £35.

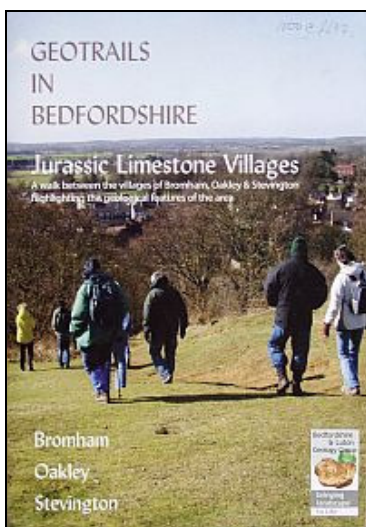
For more information see <http://www.hertsgeolsoc.org.uk/HertfordshireGeologyBook.htm>.

Success at The Naze

The Naze Heritage Project has landed a grant of £1.2 million to enhance the environment and interpretation of The Naze (Walton on the Naze, Essex). See www.nazeheritageproject.org.uk/ and also <http://www.in-tend.org/Regeneration+Projects/Walton+Frameword/Crag+Walk/> for in-depth detail.

GeoEssex will be contributing information for an interpretation board about the nationally important Red Crag geology.

New limestone walk in Beds



Bedfordshire's Jurassic limestone heritage came into focus in April with the publication of a new walking leaflet by Beds Geology Group. Peter Lally has turned his passion for the great outdoors into a route taking in the villages of Bromham, Oakley and Stevington.

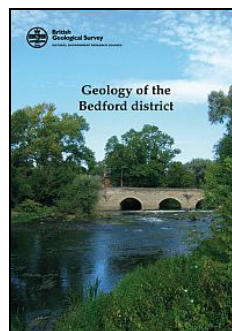
The result is a reminder of local limestone heritage in the built environment. To get a copy contact Peter Lally at plally65@gmail.com.

The Geology of Bedford

Great excitement - a new 1:50,000 Bedrock & Superficial Deposits map of Bedford (Sheet 203) has just been published. The last edition was dated 1900, so it's hardly surprising that this new version shows a lot more detail and is much more clearly presented. In particular, the Middle Jurassic geology in the Great Ouse valley is better portrayed (despite a lack of much outcrop) and the subdivision of the Oxford Clay through Marston Vale has been made possible by the temporary exposures created by the brick-making industry over the last century. The superficial deposits are given proper recognition and there are a couple of useful cross-sections and a fascinating topographic relief map from which you can identify every brick pit and settlement.

The map is accompanied by a brief explanation of the area, which is rather easier going than the traditional full-blown Survey Memoirs. Both the map and the booklet (see below) are available from the BGS at Keyworth who deal very efficiently with orders over the phone or online.

- Martin Whiteley
(Local Geological Sites Manager,
Bedfordshire Geology Group)



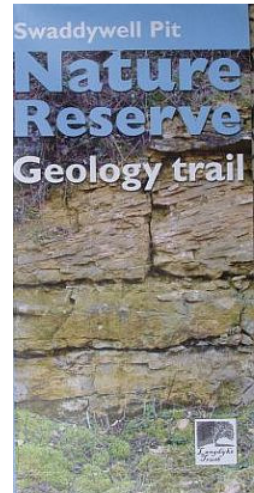
Barron, A.J.M., Sumbler, M.G., Morigi, A.N., Reeves, H.J., Benham, A.J., Entwisle, D.C. and Gale, I.N. 2010. *Geology of the Bedford district - a brief explanation of the geological map. Sheet Explanation of the British Geological Survey. 1:50 000 Sheet 203 Bedford (England and Wales)*. B&B Press Ltd, Rotherham.

Peterborough bounces back

GeoPeterborough is the new name of the revived Peterborough RIGS Group. The group will build on existing local assets which include six designated RIGS, the Peterborough Geology Audit, many local nature reserves with important geo-features (eg Swaddywell Pit), geology collections and displays at Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery, and a range of supportive local organisations.

Peterborough has some of the world's best Jurassic fossil sites. The Peterborough Geology Audit is available at www.geo-east.org.uk/pp/cambridgeshire/cppage.htm

For more information about the group please contact Jonathan Larwood at jonathan.larwood@naturalengland.org.uk.



The Big Freeze !

As expected, the Budget Crisis is hitting geodiversity. In common with other Government bodies, Natural England is subject to a review of expenditure, and needs to identify savings in public funding.

This review has hit Geo-East when we were just about to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with NE for £16,000 worth of projects. Our contact Natalie Bennett has advised us to carry on preparing our costed project bids in the normal way, but recommended that we also identify projects based on practical work rather than outreach and communication (e.g. leaflets, websites). Meanwhile, she and her colleagues are working hard within Natural England to advocate the significance of the work of Geo-East and other geo-partnership projects across the UK, and the importance of continuing to support them.

The GCR in Crisis

The JNCC (www.jncc.gov.uk/) is planning to close the Geological Conservation Review (GCR). The GCR is a record of nationally important geodiversity features, and is used to underpin the designation of SSSIs with scientific information. It is published in a hard-back printed volumes and also web-based files. 36 out of a planned 45 have now been published, but the JNCC has decided not to fund publication of the last nine. Two volumes are of direct relevance to us in the region:

- *Quaternary of East Anglia and the Midlands*
- *Pleistocene fossil mammals and birds*

Contact Dr Peter Banham (Chair, Herts Geol Soc) for up to date information on a campaign to save the GCR – email Peter at pbanham@btinternet.com.

The GCR is a national achievement, and reflects an outstanding commitment to understanding and valuing Britain's Earth heritage. Find out more about it at

- www.thegcr.org.uk/index.cfm
- <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4172>

Hominid finds at Happisburgh

Much interest has been generated by this year's ground-breaking discoveries at Happisburgh. Norfolk has the earliest and northernmost evidence of human expansion into Eurasia. For more information see *Nature* vol. 466, 189-190 (8 July 2010) and http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/science_and_environment/10531419.stm.

Geo-East website news

Places to Visit

Geo-East website has links to information about 46 places of geodiversity interest in the region. See <http://www.geo-east.org.uk/placestovisit.htm>.

Photo Gallery

There are now nine albums featuring aspects of the region's geodiversity, including fascinating ones of the North Norfolk coast. Logged-in members can start their own or add to existing albums.




Links

More information resources have been added to the Links section. See <http://www.geo-east.org.uk/links.htm>.

CALENDAR						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Calendar

Geo-East Calendar is available for logged-in members to post events. See <http://www.geo-east.org.uk/pp/calendar.htm>.



**THE EAST
OF ENGLAND
GEODIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIP**

Geo-East is a partnership of organisations and individuals in the East of England region, covering Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Our aims are to:

- Promote geodiversity in the East of England;
- Advocate and represent geodiversity in the regional planning process and other regional initiatives;
- Encourage and enable collaboration, support and exchange of ideas in relation to geodiversity;
- Represent the region in national geodiversity initiatives.

Contact

Tim Holt-Wilson
Acting Secretary
admin@geo-east.org.uk
Tel: 0845-458 8261



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