

London Geodiversity Action Plan 2014-2018

Progress in implementing the London GAP as at February 2016

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 16 February 2016.

Objective 1: Increase our understanding of the geodiversity of London

- 1.1a Identified one candidate LIGS (Monken Hadley Common).
- 1.1b Identified 26 SGIs to be written up for the *Guide to London's geological sites*.
- 1.2c List of partners placed on website
- 1.3a Link established in *Building London* and on website to 32 London building stone walks through Urban Geology and London Pavement Geology websites.
- 1.4a 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

- 2.1a Prepared updates for website for 3 recommended RIGS and 9 recommended LIGS and revising the entry for GLA22 (Keston Common).
- 2.1b Maintained contact with London Wildlife Sites Board.
- 2.1c GiGL information has been updated.
- 2.2a Inspected 22 sites previously identified as RIGS/LIGS (GLA 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 14, 24, 25, 31, 38, 39, 40, 42, 44, 51, 52, 55, 58, 64, 68, 69 and 70). 2 sites (GLA38 Chalky Dell and GLA51 Parish's Pit) would benefit from vegetation clearance to improve visibility. Conservation work is being undertaken at GLA 7 Crystal Palace dinosaurs by the Friends of Crystal Palace.
- 2.2b Significant progress has been made at Gilbert's Pit (GLA14) with a gate installed for access to the south face and agreement between Royal Borough of Greenwich and Natural England to provide steps to the east face.
- 2.2c Continued liaison with LB Bexley on Abbey Wood project (GLA 1 and 38), with RB Greenwich on Gilbert's Pit and with the City of London on Highgate Wood (GLA44) and LGP were consulted by LB Lewisham on proposals for Beckenham Place Park (GLA3).
- 2.2d Geoconservation Day at Gilbert's Pit in April 2015.
- 2.2e Worked with developers, local residents and the Natural History Museum on interpretation at North End Pit (GLA31), which was designated an outreach scheme by the NHM Human origins team. Involved London Open University Geological Society in geoconservation day at Gilbert's Pit and established or continued liaison with the Friends of Queens Wood, the Friends of Richmond Park, the Friends of Coldfall Wood and Heath hands, the local volunteers group established during the RSPB project.
- 2.2f Views from Green Chain Walk in south-east London identified for possible inclusion in audio trail together with the view from Nunhead Station.

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

- 3.1.a Geological points of interest on Green Chain Walk and routes from South-East train stations identified for GCW/South-eastern Trains audio trail project.

- 3.1b Fully developed Spas & Springs in south London Geotrail with its points of interest and initiated development of Richmond Park geotrail.
- 3.1c Identified geological points of interest on or near the Green Chain Walk and Capital Ring, with a few also on London Loop.
- 3.2a 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.
- 3.2b Led Springs and spas of south London Geotrail during Earth Science Week in October. Several partners led building stone and geology walks for the public and local organisations, eg on Hampstead Heath and to Coldfall Wood, and gave talks to organisations including the Essex Rock and Minerals Society, the Architectural Association, Heath Hands and the Friends of Queens Wood
- 3.2c Public events run by the Partnership and those of Partnership members (Geologists' Association and the Amateur Geological Society) have been advertised on website.
- 3.3b Worked with Erith Park Development on North End Pit following successful inclusion of geological information in the planning permission culminating in the launch of the information board in September. Responded to query on potential development at Horsenden Hill (GLA20) and liaised with Natural England and the developers on a proposed development at Harrow Weald (GLA18).

Objective 4: Promote and care for London's Geodiversity

- 4.1c SSSIs, RIGS and LIGS now separately identified on map in *Guide to London's geological sites* and began preparing addition on newly recommended RIGS/LIGS and on proposed SGIs.
- 4.2a The website has been updated as and when appropriate.
- 4.2b Links added to Urban geology and London pavement geology websites
- 4.3 Continued liaison with London Wildlife Sites Board.
- 4.4a An event was held for the OCR examination board on using the urban environment as a teaching resource. A number of articles were published in *Earth heritage* and the AGS Newsletter.
- 4.4c Assisted Michael Franks on his Earthcache walk at the British Library.
- 4.5b Research on the ochres on Hampstead Heath was included in research on British ochres.

Objective 5: Sustain geodiversity activities in London

- 5.1 Grant Museum of Zoology joined the Partnership.
- 5.3a Natural England funding for work at Gilbert's Pit agreed.

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

- 6.1 Continued to liaise with GLA on preparing next tranche of 'Candidate' RIGS/LIGS sites to be added to the website following agreement of revised approach to clarify the classification of sites.

Proposed activities for 2016

17 Potential sites identified that remain to be assessed.

9 London boroughs have no geodiversity interest identified as yet and further desk research will be carried out.

22 sites (GLA5, 15, 17, 18, 26, 30, 32, 33, 34, 37, 41, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54 and 59) have been identified that have not been inspected for 5 or more years.

Prepare entries for the *Guide to London's geological sites* on the LGP website for the 3 RIGS and 9 LIGS that have been recommended and the SGIs proposed.

Prepare guide to the Spas and springs of south London geotrail and geological points of interest on the Green Chain Walk (with completion of leaflet and audio trail) and an overview of London's geology and place on website.

Develop geotrail for Richmond Park and lead a walk for the public during Earth science week.

Submit updates for inclusion of RIGS/LIGS on GLA website.

Hold a Geoconservation day, possibly at Riddlesdown (GLA26) in September, and look at the possibilities for further geoconservation work at Harefield SSSI (GLA34), Chalky Dell (GLA38) and Tripcock Ness (GLA66).

Provision of the steps at Gilbert's Pit for RB Greenwich/Natural England

Continue liaison on Gilbert's Pit for interpretation board(s), Abbey Wood, Highgate Wood, the proposed development at Harrow Weald and examine the possibilities for adding geodiversity interest to the Bedford Park nature trail, Hainault Forest Park and the Epping Forest visitor centre..