

Welcome to *Geo East* the newsletter for the East of England Geodiversity Partnership.
C Markham 16.02.08
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Update on Regional Development Framework Consultations

During the November meeting we discussed making a joint response to regional development framework consultations for the East of England. Responses were made as follows:

Consultation (regional agency)	Partners
Regional Economic Strategy (EEDA)	Beds & Luton; Norfolk, Suffolk
Integrated Regional Strategy (EERA)	Beds & Luton; Essex; Norfolk, Suffolk
Regional Spatial Strategy (GO-East)	Norfolk, Suffolk

Work involved checking that geodiversity is counted among regional assets, that threats to it are considered, and that it is included in indicators for Sustainable Development. It has been clear that geodiversity is not adequately valued as an asset in these RDF documents, for example as:

- a landscape asset mitigating and buffering the effects of climate change;
- a scientific asset for understanding the historical background to climate change;
- material and functional assets providing resources, e.g. groundwater, soil, sand, gravel and lime;
- an aesthetic asset for visitors and the tourist industry as well as inhabitants.

In general, the regional authorities need a big helping hand with implementing PPS9 as it relates to geodiversity, and incorporating it into RDF documents. This is a new game for them (and us). We need to be able to supply them with regional baseline information about assets, e.g. sites and landforms. This should be a campaigning target for the *Geo East* Partnership. I wonder what timescale for attaining it would be realistic. T Holt-Wilson

Bedfordshire and Luton Geology Group

The main news from B&LGG is that their two major geoconservation projects, at Potton and at Kensworth are progressing well.

Spring 2008 events:

February 28th 7.15pm B&LGG Promotional Evening Delta House, Leighton Buzzard. Prof Cynthia Burek will give a talk on the Importance of Geodiversity.

March 9th 10.30am Harrold-Odell Country Park led by Richard Dowsett to look at the sedimentary lenses in order to identify and record flood, ploughing and other levels.

March 30th Guided Tour of Charnwood Forest by Keith Ambrose, Geodiversity Officer for the BGS.

April 10th 10.30am Hands on Rocks Workshop - an introduction to Bedfordshire's rocks.

April 27th 11am Fullers' Earth Walk and Talk at Aspley Heath led by Bev Fowlston.

If you wish to attend any of these events contact Bev Fowlston bev.fowlston@gmail.com

GeoSuffolk News

By now you should all have received copies of the three new leaflets, *Flint* and *GeoSuffolk Goes to Church in South Suffolk* and *GeoSuffolk Goes to Church in Suffolk Coastal*. They should go onto the web site soon.

The first Suffolk Naturalists' Society Geological field trip of 2008 is on **April 26th** 10.30 am to the Waveney Valley to see terrace remnants and other Pleistocene sites, led by Tim Holt-Wilson.

Geodiversity in Norfolk

The latest Geological Society of Norfolk Newsletter (No 71, 2008) highlights Norfolk geodiversity with articles by Jenny Gladstone, Adrian Read and Tim Holt-Wilson – a good read!

If you have news of geodiversity in your area for the May *Geo East* newsletter please contact me.

The Essex Gem and Mineral Show in Romford is on **Saturday 23rd February** – an excellent day out. Find out more on www.erm.org