

Welcome to *Geo East* the newsletter for the East of England Geodiversity Partnership.
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GeoEast Funding Ideas

Our East of England links may provide us with funding opportunities. For 2009-10 GeoSuffolk is investigating the *Returning Sea* project for the maritime counties and an *East of England White Horse* project (Chalk) to bring all six counties together. It is suggested that these might be in the form of a poster/leaflet campaign, plus public events to raise awareness of our beautiful and varied geodiversity in the Eastern Region. A *Flint* project and an *Industrial Geology* * project are further in the future. More news in the summer, but please contact **Bob Markham** (at the above email address) if you can't wait that long!

Bedfordshire and Luton Geology Group

The Potton Scout Hut Project has been completed and this Greensand quarry is now a fully working educational site. There have been three groups in already, two from local schools and a Beds & Luton GG members' workshop.

25th May Walk along Sundon Hills to Sharpenhoe Clappers.

8th June Walk along the Greensand Ridge, with River Ouzel geomorphology, dry valleys and Quaternary geology.

26th July –Beds & Luton GG stand at Leighton-Linslade Canal Festival.

If anyone wishes to attend these trips or visit the Potton site please contact **Bev Fowlston**.

bev.fowlston@gmail.com

Geology Society of Norfolk field trips

Please contact C Markham if you wish to attend.

18th May – Thorpeness and Aldringham (Suffolk) to see Norwich Crag, beach features and building stones.

Suffolk Geocoast mid-week field meetings:

28th July – Bawdsey peninsula churches

29th July – Dunwich

30th July – Easton Bavents

31st July – Bawdsey East Beach

National Indicator 197

NI197 requires County Councils and unitary authorities to take the lead on Local Site management monitoring by establishing a Local Sites Partnership, (LAs Wildlife Trusts, RIGS groups etc.) and checking all sites every five years. Sadly, although the guidance notes include geodiversity, this is not reflected in the wording of NI 197. In Norfolk, we were fortunate that the Biodiversity Partnership Co-ordinator remembered to include RIGS within Norfolk County Council's Local Site baseline count. I strongly suggest that RIGS groups contact their own LAs and ask if they have 'remembered' RIGS in their Local Sites baseline count and for the RIGS group to be included in the Local Sites Partnership.

NI 197 should provide an incentive for LAs to get involved in RIGS monitoring and management, and for geodiversity to begin to find a voice in planning, alongside biodiversity.

Jenny Gladstone GSN

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/indicatorsdefinitions>

News on GeoEssex

The recent initiatives by the Geology Trusts, UKRIGS and Natural England, to establish regional geodiversity partnerships such as GeoEast, and to improve our understanding of funding sources for geological activities have given us the opportunity to rekindle enthusiasm in Essex. We plan to replace Essex RIGS by a group with a much broader remit, along the lines of GeoSuffolk. We have followed the precedent set by GeoSuffolk and GeoEast and called it GeoEssex. If we can emulate GeoSuffolk's success as well as their name we will have done well. Our inaugural meeting takes place at County Hall, Chelmsford on April 28, when we hope to determine how we will operate, what we want to achieve and to appoint a committee and officers.

Mike Sandison

Essex Wildlife Trust
27.04.08

* www.bedsrigs.org.uk
has five excellent new leaflets on the industrial geology of Bedfordshire

If you have news for the August *Geo East* please contact me. CM
