

SOMERSET GEOLOGY GROUP (SGG)

Update 4: Spring 2017 (February 2017)

Working in partnership with Somerset Environmental Record Centre (SERC)

Dear all - we are making good progress with our plans to **Review Somerset's Local Geological Sites**:

- We are delighted that the **Curry Fund** of the **Geologists' Association** has offered us a grant. This will assist with **desk and site survey** costs for student placements and other volunteers to cover the 230 Local Geological Sites (LGSs) across the county in the coming two years; and there is a commitment to further help with the follow-on work in Year 3.
- Please pass on the attached advert to any geology students whom you think may be interested in a **student volunteer trainee placement** with SERC on the project.
- On **Tuesday 23 May 2017 (morning)** we will be holding an open meeting for our SGG network in **Street, Somerset**. It will be a chance to learn more about the project, including **volunteering via SERC to help with the desk and site survey work**; and an opportunity to meet other SGG members and discuss how we develop SGG. *Please put the date in your diary - further details to come nearer the time.*

The review project is a partnership, with SERC managing aspects such as finance, contacting landowners and volunteer induction. SERC is core funded to contribute environmental information, including on LGSs, to Somerset's planning authorities (by, for example, district councils); and has considerable experience of similar biological site recording projects.

The Curry Fund grant is a welcome addition to the sponsorship already pledged by **Geckoella** - and we have a bid currently under consideration for support by **Exmoor National Park Authority**.

We will be holding a second meeting of our **Steering Group** in March to advise further on the project. It is providing expertise and advice from relevant topics, such as field studies, landscape conservation and planning and knowledge from across the county and currently includes Exmoor National Park, Natural England and the Mendip-based, Somerset Earth Science Centre.

Andy King of Geckoella is carrying out a **pilot study** for us, as help in kind, on a small number of sites, using a draft proforma and guidance and that we developed in the autumn. Somerset was a pioneer nationally in identifying its LGSs, but it is 25 years since that first round of work, and we now need to develop a more comprehensive evidence base, including monitoring the condition of sites.

We are also gradually developing a **Working group** to share the task of organising SGGs input to the project. NB Please bear with us re your offers of for volunteer support: it may still be some time, for example, before we are at a stage to involve specialist advice in reviewing groups of sites.

Wendy Lutley, Coordinator

Somerset Geology Group is a member of **GeoConservationUK**, the Association of UK groups, whose mission is to: *'encourage the appreciation, conservation and promotion of local/regional geological sites for education and public benefit'*.

http://wiki.geoconservationuk.org.uk/index.php5?title=Main_Page