

Update No 5: Spring (March) 2018

Working in partnership with Somerset Wildlife Trust to encourage appreciation, conservation and promotion of the geology of Somerset

<http://wp.somerc.co.uk/specialist-groups/somerset-geology-group/>



Dear all - this is to update you with progress of our joint project with Somerset Environmental Record Centre (SERC) to **Review Somerset's Local Geological Sites (LGSs)** - and to let you know other information relevant to geological conservation and earth science education in Somerset:

- Over its first year (2017/2018) the project has surveyed 62 of Somerset's c 230 LGSs, with the assistance of three SERC-based student volunteers and two SGG volunteer mentors. Work focused on Exmoor and the Quantocks during summer and early autumn of 2017 and we were also able to start limited work in the Mendips over the winter, following our SGG meeting in October hosted by the Somerset Earth Science Centre. Our thanks to everyone who has helped in many different ways over this first year of the project. *See attached report for full detail.*
- We hope to finalise plans with SERC for the second year (2018/19) in the coming weeks. Please pass on the attached note asking for **initial expressions of interest** to any **geology students** - or others - whom you think may be interested in helping with the project voluntarily. *NB Bear with us re your earlier offers of expert voluntary input: it may still be some time before we can involve specialist advice offered for particular geological horizons.*
- The **next meeting of our SGG network will be on Monday 8 October 2018**, kindly hosted by **Frome Museum**. It will be an opportunity to hear about and discuss latest progress with the LGS project and share information on other geo-conservation and earth science education projects relevant to Somerset. Full details yet to be agreed, but we envisage a similar style of meeting to that held in May 2017, ie including an item to introduce the museum's geological collections. *Please put the date in your diary - further details to come nearer the time.*
- **GeoWeek 5-13 May 2018** - The date for this initiative has now been agreed and Chris King asks us all to *encourage relevant organisations in Somerset to contribute activities* to this year's GeoWeek. The Earth Science Education Forum is leading on this new UK-wide initiative to introduce the public to field-based activities to learn more about the earth sciences. For more details and how to add your own activity: see www.geoweek.org.uk . There are plans to grow the event over the coming years - so please bear this in mind for the future too.
- **Mendip Rocks Festival 2018** - Adel Avery asks us to consider how we can contribute to this programme of c 30 events, which will be spread this year from **July to the end of October**, with community/family days at weekends and more specialist field trip days during **Earth Science Week, 13- 21 October**. The theme is '*our natural resources*', so water or quarry/mineral topics would fit well. If you have any ideas please get in touch with Adel soon via adel@earthsciencecentre.org.uk . See <http://www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk> for details of the programme nearer the time.
- **Listing of forthcoming geological events in Somerset** - we discussed this at our October SGG meeting. Since then Doug Robinson has liaised with Graeme Churchyard and events can now be listed well in advance via Graeme's blog: <http://geologywestcountry.blogspot.co.uk/> as there are now events calendars on two linked websites: bristolgeology.com and westcountrygeology.com. The events on both are virtually identical at the moment, but Graeme hopes they will diverge over

time to reflect their different geographies. Somerset events can be included on the latter and there are instructions on how to contact Graeme to add events to the calendar and advertise them in more detail via his blog.

- **Publications on the geology of Somerset** - Graham has also added an experimental page, <http://westcountrygeology.com/somerset-papers.html> , with the *Bibliography of Somerset Geology*, compiled up to 1997 by the late Hugh Prudden (our former secretary). This can be word searched. Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society (SANHS) is continuing to work on Hugh's records for the Somerset Heritage Centre. Once complete we hope to be able to start to update the bibliography with more recent references.
- **Teachers of geology in Somerset** - at our last meeting we discussed the fact that we have very few teachers of geology on our SGG network. If there is anyone who you know that teaches geology in Somerset – and/or uses Somerset sites regularly for field teaching - please let them know about SGG and ask them to make contact via Somersetgeology@gmail.com.
- **Data protection** - I will endeavour to make sure that SGG *Updates* are always sent as a blind email and that we only send 'non-blind' emails to a smaller number of you, where you have indicated that you are happy. It can, for example, be helpful to share our email addresses for a small number of people for a particular topic or to coordinate a particular SGG activity (for example if you're involved with our LGS project steering group). It is however very important that we respect each others' email addresses, both in terms of data protection and IT security. *Please let me know if you would no longer like to receive SGG Updates.*
- After our last meeting Geoff Roland kindly created a **Facebook** page for us as a closed account, ie so only SGG members can see and write posts. Please contact Garry Dawson on our SGG email address at Somersetgeology@gmail.com in the first instance, if you would like to access it and note that Geoff will be site 'administrator'. It is important that Garry, as a Co-Coordinator for SGG, continues to check you are on our SGG network and acts as a 'monitor' for the site.
- We can review the best ways of communicating SGG-relevant activity again at our next meeting. SGG is not of course intended to be a general geology interest group and we do not, for example, organise field trips. There are other organisations that cover this for Somerset and the wider South West (Geologists' Association, Open University Geology Society, U3A geology groups, Bath Geological Society, Ussher Society, SANHS, etc.), so please do support them.
- **Next update** - please let me have any information on *coordinating activity* in Somerset on geological conservation and earth science education by *Friday 24 August 2018* and I will endeavour to include it in the next *Update*, for early September together with details of our October meeting.

Best wishes and much appreciation for everyone's activity in conserving and encouraging an understanding of Somerset's geology. I'm only just beginning to appreciate its full richness and diversity – and the scope for more earth science interpretive material is emerging as considerable.

Wendy Lutley, Coordinator

Somerset Geology Group is a member of **GeoConservationUK**, the association of groups whose mission is to *encourage the appreciation, conservation & promotion of local/regional geological sites for education & public benefit*. See http://wiki.geoconservationuk.org.uk/index.php5?title=Main_Page .

SGG also aims to encourage delivery in Somerset of the UK Geodiversity Action Plan www.ukgap.org.uk and England Geodiversity Charter www.englishgeodiversityforum.org .