

## Herefordshire and Worcestershire

### MAJOR AWARD FROM THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

**F**OLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL rock and fossil roadshow pilot scheme last year, the Trust has been given a grant of over £90,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver an ambitious three-year project to provide 'Earth Heritage for All'

This wide ranging project is providing opportunities for families, schools, children, students, retired people and volunteers to participate in activities and to learn about Earth heritage. Twelve Roadshows each year are being held over the two counties at a variety of venues for different audiences. Hands-on activities are chosen to suit the occasion from the eleven currently available (including fossil casting, painting fossil casts, making a Silurian seascape collage, 'feely' boxes, 'What rock am I?', 'How to Become a Fossil' board game and 'What is your house made of?'). The grant will enable plans for new activities to be executed. Participants are encouraged to join the Trust and become volunteer helpers. Other educational opportunities in Earth heritage through organisations, such as Rockwatch, University of Third Age and the Open University, are being

promoted and the educational aspect of the Trust's website will also be developed.

The Trust made an exciting start on the project during the summer of 2004. A busy schedule of public and educational events was completed in the space of 6 months. Venues included the National Trust's Hanbury Hall; Bewdley Museum; Severn Valley Railway's Arley station; Queenswood Country Park; and Eastnor Castle where at a weeklong children's fun event it was estimated that over 2,000 Plaster-of Paris casts were made!

### Open Day

THE TRUST is holding an exhibition on Friday 15th April 2005 in the Hereford Room of the Conference Centre at University College Worcester. All our colleagues, members, partners, contacts and associates are invited to this Open Day, which will start at 10.30am and finish at 4.00. There will be full displays of all of the Trust's projects and project managers and researchers will be there to discuss the programmes and their findings. Morning coffee and afternoon tea will be provided and a reasonably priced lunch will be available in the College refectory. Please come and see us.

### Rock and Fossil Roadshow Events 2005\*

MONTH	DATE	VENUE	TYPE	COUNTY
February	27th	Bishop's Wood Centre, Stourport	Public	Worcs.
March	28th	Bewdley Museum	Public	Worcs.
April	21st	Shire Hall, Hereford	Schools	Hfds.
May	10/11th	Severn Valley Railway	Schools	Worcs.
June	15/16th	Severn Valley Railway	Schools	Worcs.
July	27th	Queenswood Country Park	Public	Hfds.
August	15th-19th	Eastnor Castle, Ledbury	Public Fun Week	Hfds.
September	14th	Bewdley Museum	Schools	Worcs.
October	2nd	Bodenham Arboretum, Kidderminster	Public	Worcs.



Above: Bewdley Museum.



Right: Queenswood Country Park.

\* The Trust welcomes volunteers to assist with these events - hard work but good fun.



## Sponsors

CURRENT projects are funded by awards or contracts from the following organisations for which we are very grateful: Heritage Lottery Fund, English Nature Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, Abberley and Malvern Hills Global Geopark, LEADER+, Wye Valley AONB, Malvern Hills AONB, Worcestershire County Council and University College Worcester.

## PROTECTING IMPORTANT GEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE ABBERLEY HILLS

THE TRUST HAS BEEN GIVEN A GRANT from English Nature's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund to research and designate eighteen new RIGS (Regionally Important Geological Sites) over six months.

The total project worth nearly £20,000 also includes the design and emplacement of three interpretation panels. Most of these will be on the Worcestershire Way long distance footpath as part of a partnership project with Worcestershire County Council. Most of the work is concentrating on old limestone quarries in the Abberley Hills where the aggregates industry, which

operated in the area for many decades, has finally ceased extraction. The programme of RIGS identification is the core work of the Trust but this proves very difficult to finance so the award from English Nature is of great importance. The Trust intends to continue with the programme throughout the two counties whenever funding becomes available.

## International Geopark Week

THE UNESCO ACCREDITED Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark will be hosting a number of events in the period 30th May to 6th June 2005 as part of a programme taking place across Europe. The events form part of the European Geopark Network programme and events open to all include the launch by Geopark President Professor Aubrey Manning in Abberley village, of the new Abberley Hills trails, a rock and fossil roadshow at the Forestry Commission Visitor Centre in the Wyre Forest, a geology extravaganza at Severn



Valley Country Park and guided geology and landscape walks at various locations. For more information contact Dr Cheryl Jones by email [c.jones@worc.ac.uk](mailto:c.jones@worc.ac.uk) or phone 01905 855124 or visit the Geopark web site [www.worc.ac.uk/geopark](http://www.worc.ac.uk/geopark). You don't have to wait until the summer before seeing the geology. There are now seven trail guides available for locations within the Geopark. These cover landscapes, geology and building stones. Please let us know if you have 'done' all seven.

# LEADER+ PROJECT SUCCESS

**O**VER THE LAST TWO YEARS FIVE geology and landscape trails have been set up and the associated guides published. In addition twenty RIGS have been designated taking in some of the most important Quaternary and fluvial sites in Herefordshire.

All this has been undertaken with excellent community involvement. Local people have participated in field surveys and in guided trails, in siting

interpretation panels, providing photographs and clearing vegetation.

A strong community link has been established with the Trust and a better understanding of the geology and geomorphology has been gained. Now we hope the tourists will visit these peaceful places and view the outstanding landscapes and rocks; the demand for the trail guides is already underway.



The Byton and Kinsham Trail.



## Aims of the Trust

THE TRUST records geological and geomorphological sites and designates those that are regionally important. As well as the furtherance of geoconservation there is a strong programme of Earth heritage awareness. Members of the Trust contribute to this programme with their annual subscriptions. They receive two copies of the newsletter per year. Members may also attend, free of charge, the volunteer workshop and fieldwork training days that the Trust organises and they can receive a discount on the price of trails leaflets published by the Trust.

## Local Geodiversity Action Plans

THE FOLLOWING is an extract from English Nature's leaflet:

*'Local Geodiversity Action Plans (LGAPs) provide a new and effective route to achieving geoconservation. Importantly they involve a wide range of groups, organisations and individuals in agreeing priorities and actions for geodiversity and can make more effective use of the limited resources available.'*

*LGAPs are, in part, developed from the model of Biodiversity Action Plans. LGAPs establish an on-going process that sets clear aims and objectives, with measurable targets, for*

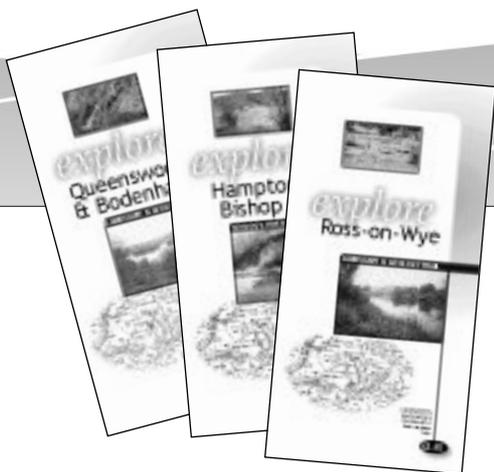
*local geoconservation. LGAPs provide a framework for the conservation of geodiversity within the landscape. Whilst each LGAP is tailored to suit the variation of local geology and will therefore differ in detail, LGAPs share a common approach and underpinning philosophy: the conservation and enhancement of geodiversity.'*

The Trust will soon be developing its ideas for a LGAP for each of the counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire. There will also be partnership development of the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark LGAP.

## Members of The Geology Trusts secure £1 million

THE TRUST AS A MEMBER of the national organisation of professional geoconservation groups - The Geology Trusts - is pleased to announce a major funding milestone. Since its formation in 1999 the GT has encouraged and supported its members in their fundraising activities. Together with its own successes the GT and its members have been successful in delivering geoconservation and public awareness programmes worth over £1 million. Our own Trust's successes make up a significant part of this figure and we have played a major role in bringing the GT to such an important position in such a short time. This is very encouraging for Earth heritage awareness and geoconservation in Britain. There are now eight county geoconservation groups making up the membership.





## Notice of Annual General Meeting and Presentation

The AGM of the Trust will take place in the Hereford Room of the Conference Centre at University College Worcester at 10.30 am on Saturday 16th April 2005. Coffee will be available at 10.00. Nominations for Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and four Executive Committee Members must be with the Secretary fourteen days before the AGM. The following existing EC Members are prepared to stand again - Les

Morris (Chairman), Cherry Oliver (Treasurer), John Payne and Rosamund Skelton. The positions of Secretary and two EC Members are vacant. Membership fees are due at the start of the AGM. The subscription this year will be £5 and is due on the day. The AGM will be followed by a comprehensive exhibition of the Trust's work with a number of short informal presentations starting at 11.00. Lunch can be taken in the College canteen at 1 pm. This is your chance to find out all about the work of the Trust. Please come along and meet everyone.

## TRAIL GUIDES

**T**HE TRUST'S 'EXPLORE' SERIES of trail guides now has nineteen publications. These attractive laminated guides have been given sparkling reviews by their peers and have been well received by the public.

The trail guides look at building stones, landscape and geology of locations within Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Written in a friendly manner, they can be understood by anyone with an interest in geology. There are text boxes for those who would like to delve a little deeper into the subject. Some also include an interesting free biodiversity and/or archaeology insert. Many of these trails, such as those based on the two cathedrals and city centres and town centres, can be followed at a gentle pace whereas others are better suited to more experienced walkers. You can even follow a trail from the comfort of a Severn Valley Railway carriage and the Malvern Hills trail has cyclists in mind.

- ◆ Bewdley Town Centre (0-9543572-5-6)
- ◆ Bredon Hill (0-9535054-9-9)
- ◆ Byton and Kinsham (0-9543572-4-8)
- ◆ Goodrich Castle (0-9535054-3-X)
- ◆ Great Malvern (0-9535054-6-4)
- ◆ Hampton Bishop (0-9543572-9-9)
- ◆ Hereford Cathedral (0-9543572-3-X)
- ◆ Hereford City Centre (0-9543572-2-1)

- ◆ Malvern Hills (0-9535054-7-2)
- ◆ Queenswood and Bodenham (0-9543572-8-0)
- ◆ Severn Valley Railway (0-9535054-4-8)
- ◆ Symonds Yat (0-9535054-2-1)
- ◆ Wigmore Glacial Lake (no ISBN)
- ◆ Worcester Cathedral (0-9535054-5-6)
- ◆ Worcester City Centre (0-9543572-1-3)
- ◆ Wyche and Purlieu (0-9543572-0-5)
- ◆ Woolhope Dome (0-9543572-7-2)
- ◆ Wye Gorge (0-9543572-6-4)
- ◆ Ross on Wye (0-9548360-1-4)

Selected trails are available from the locations themselves where appropriate and local Tourist Information Centres. Retail outlets include: The Map Shops at Hereford and Upton; Beacon Books in Malvern; Ross Books, Ross on Wye; The Natural History Museum, London; Geosupplies Ltd, Sheffield; They are listed by Book Data and may be ordered through any high street bookseller. They retail at £1.95.

For individual purchases the guides may be ordered directly from the Trust. There is a small postage and packing charge.

## Woolhope Club Geology Section Programme for Early 2005

Lectures and the AGM are held at the Woolhope Room, Hereford Library, Broad Street commencing at 6pm unless otherwise stated.

**Friday January 28th:** Section AGM  
Lecture 'A Taste of Brittany'  
*Speaker: Dr Paul Olver*

**Friday February 25th:** Lecture  
'Meteorites'  
*Speaker: Dr Geoff Steel*

**Friday March 18th:** Lecture  
'Quaternary Landscape Development in Herefordshire'  
*Speaker: Dr Andrew Richards*

**April 2nd - 13th:** Field trip to Brittany (Geology and archaeology)  
*Leader: Dr Paul Olver*  
Cost approx. £700. For details contact Paul Olver, telephone 01432-761693.

**Friday April 22nd:** Lecture 'The Geology and Geomorphology of Bredon Hill'

*Speaker: Les Morris*

**Saturday April 23rd:** Field excursion to Bredon Hill  
*Leader: Les Morris*

**MAY:** Geopark activity; to be announced

**June 25th:** Field excursion to the Martley Area  
*Leader Dr Paul Olver*

**July:** Field excursion to the Dudley area.  
Joint field trip with Black Country Geological Society probably including the Wren's Nest and Dudley Canal.

**Saturday August 6th:** WNFC Presidential field trip to Abberley Hills  
*Leader: Paul Olver*

Further information for all events unless otherwise stated from: Sue Hay, 01432-357138, e-mail susan.hay@hhr.nhs.uk

### PERSONNEL AND EMAIL ADDRESSES:

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