



Research Information Note

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Local Geodiversity Action Plans – Setting the context for geological conservation

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Introduction

Local Geodiversity Action Plans provide a new and effective route to achieving geoconservation. This research report provides the rationale for Local Geodiversity Action Plans (LGAPs). It examines previous work (up to 2002) on local geoconservation and draws comparisons with the work of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs). The report provides case studies highlighting differing approaches to geoconservation at local levels and suggests models for the production of LGAPs.

What was done

In 2002, the authors held a workshop to bring together geological conservation practitioners to discuss the mechanism for producing and delivering an LGAP. This workshop also produced a series of objectives, targets and indicators for geoconservation at national and local levels.

The authors examined the biological conservation process of UK BAP and LBAP to establish the action planning process. In addition, in depth case studies were produced to highlight different and novel approaches to local geoconservation, which could feed into the action planning process. Four areas were examined in detail; County Durham, Buckinghamshire, Dudley and Chester and several other areas were highlighted as examples of good practice.

Results and conclusions

The proposed model for LGAP production is based on delivery by a partnership of local geology groups in conjunction with local authorities, industry, education groups and other interested parties. It is envisioned that this group would be able to audit, designate, monitor and manage local geological sites and embed geological action planning within local authority and other local plans. This model would involve a wide range of groups and would encourage a wide range of actions. A series of generic national and local objectives, targets and indicators have been produced. These are discussed further in Burek and Potter (2004) where actual LGAP aims, objectives and targets are compared from a number of case studies.

English Nature's viewpoint

English Nature supports the LGAP process and believes LGAPs provide a good mechanism for achieving geoconservation at a local / regional level. It has been widely agreed that a national overview could help emerging LGAPs share their knowledge, provide good practice guidance, establish common standards and help the process to gain wider acceptance within the conservation and planning communities. As part of English Nature's support for the LGAP process an e-mail communication network 'Mind the LGAP' has been set up and a website created to share information and promote good practice. English Nature also intends to create a framework for a national geodiversity action plan.

Further information and advice on LGAPs can be found at <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/geological/lgap>.

Selected references

BUREK, C., & POTTER, J. 2004. Local Geodiversity Action Plans - sharing good practice workshop, Peterborough, 3 December 2003. *English Nature Research Reports*, No 601.

ENGLISH NATURE. 2004. *Local Geodiversity Action Plans – sharing good practice*. Peterborough: English Nature

Further information

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