

## PROMOTING OUR GEODIVERSITY

Suffolk's earth heritage belongs to us all. These pages show much is being done to make its fascinating story available to everyone.



Sutton

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Responsible Field Work

Access for All

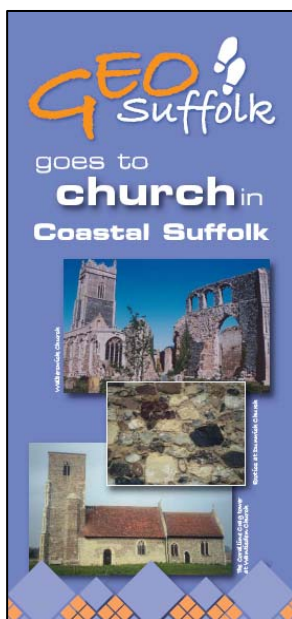
Education

## LEAFLETS

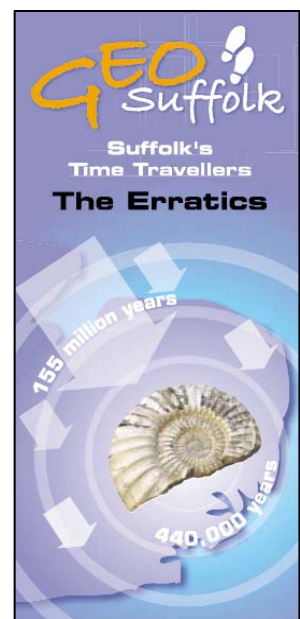
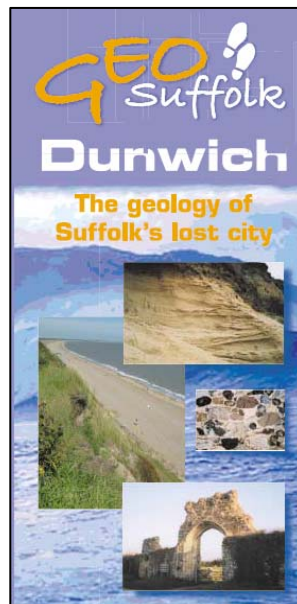
Leaflets can provide information about a geosite, museum, church, etc. being visited, in a form that is easily accessible. Low tech, light to carry and brief in content, they remain the most inclusive method of public information. Everyone has or has used a leaflet! However, to be effective they do have to be distributed widely. Museums and Tourist Information Centres are excellent, and GeoSuffolk has also used local government offices, visitor centres such as the National Trust, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and English Heritage.

Leaflets can be used to describe a site where an information panel would be inappropriate. The active sea cliffs at Dunwich RIGS are an example of this – see *Dunwich, The Geology of Suffolk's Lost City*.

Being light to carry, leaflets are excellent for trails as with Orwell Country Park and Christchurch Park in the *Geolpswich* leaflet.



They can tell stories – as with the *GeoSuffolk goes to Church in Coastal Suffolk* leaflet. This gives a history of early building stones in Suffolk, using some of the churches as examples.



Specimen-based leaflets, e.g. *The Erratics -Suffolk's Time Travellers* can be of use to local museums and they are the most popular downloads on the GeoSuffolk web site.

GeoSuffolk has published a number of leaflets on Suffolk's geodiversity – download from [www.geosuffolk.co.uk](http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk)

## PANELS

The big advantage of a geo-panel is that it is on site, and will attract the passing visitor as well as geodiversity enthusiasts.

1. The simplest approach is to position the panel in front of the geosite and describe what can be seen. **GeoSuffolk's panel at Rockhall Wood SSSI**, Sutton, is located next to the public footpath with a good view of the main Coralline Crag exposure. This would work well in any pit or quarry with public access.



2. Panels may be used as markers for a trail as with **Mid-Suffolk DC's Aggregates Trail**. This uses 5 geo-panels along a 7km stretch of the Gipping valley footpath to explore the aggregates industry and also the geology, history and wildlife of the area. This idea works well in an area with a variety of geodiversity-related interest and also supports the NHS Walk4life campaign.



3. The **GeoSuffolk/Abbey New Homes panel at Stoke Tunnel SSSI** is an experimental community panel. Telling the story of 'Lake Ipswich' to illustrate an interglacial, it helps those who live in the new housing development to understand why the SSSI has to be kept clear and accessible.



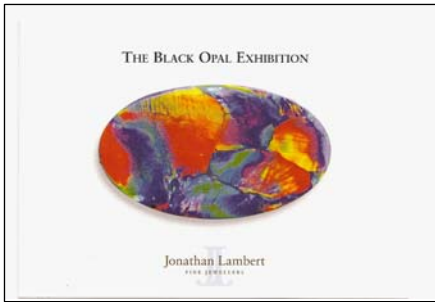
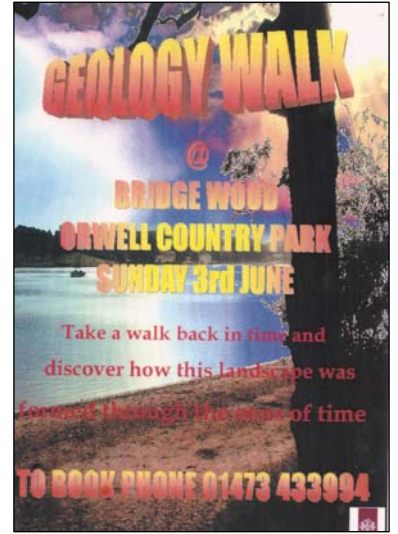


# EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS



GeoSuffolk stand at the Geologists' Association Festival of Geology in London

Ipswich Park Rangers Geology Walk in Bridge Wood



Opals in Sudbury



**HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT IPSWICH MUSEUM HIGH STREET**  
**Thursday 22nd December 1988**  
**FOSSILS, CRYSTALS, AND NUMBERS**  
 A chance to use your maths skills!  
 Find what 3,000 million years really means, make some of nature's crystal shapes, and walk in a dinosaur's footsteps.  
 For ages 8 - 15.  
 In the Geology Gallery, anytime from 10 am to 12 noon and 2 - 4.30 pm.



- Events at Ipswich Museum:
- The Search for Coal in Suffolk, a Science Week event 2010.
  - Fossils, crystals and numbers, linking with the maths curriculum.



- GeoSuffolk events:
- East Anglian RIGS meeting – Proceedings in *Suffolk Natural History*.
  - Leading a field trip for the Hertfordshire Geological Society. At Sudbourne.

## RESPONSIBLE FIELDWORK

**Permissions** must always be obtained. There is a great deal of goodwill towards responsible visitors. Operational sites, heavy construction sites and industrial premises will require an undertaking to indemnify, to compensate, etc. and perhaps special permits to enter. On all sites there may be good reason not to grant permission at certain times. Farmers and landowners often give verbal permission, but it is best to have it in writing as conditions may apply.

**Transport** – will you be expected to drive a minibus? Is there parking for a number of cars? ...a coach?

**Insurance.** Check public liability insurance for societies and groups for field trips. Check personal accident and personal liability cover for individuals – this may be covered by house insurance. Professional indemnity insurance may be necessary.

**Preparation** may include studying field excursion guides, e.g. *Pliocene - Middle Pleistocene East Anglia Field Guide* edited by P L Gibbard and J A Zalasiewicz and published by the Quaternary Research Association 1988. Draw a sketch map to show localities, main roads, relevant tracks, landmarks, grid references.

**Clothing and Equipment.** Stout footwear, notebook, hard hat, high visibility jacket. Consider the weather – do you need waterproofs, sun block, etc.? What equipment do you need – maps, first aid kit, etc.? A local supplier is UKGE [www.ukge.co.uk](http://www.ukge.co.uk).

### Allocate Responsibilities

Do you need helpers and what must they do?

### Fieldwork Conduct

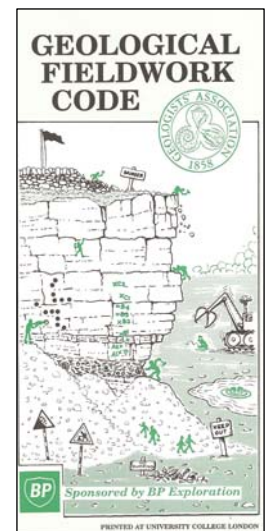
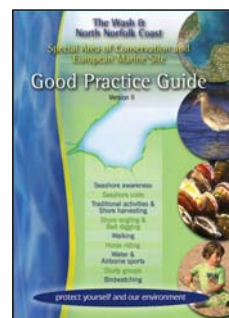
Recommended codes to familiarise yourself with:  
*Geological Fieldwork Code* Geologists' Association

[www.geologists.org.uk](http://www.geologists.org.uk)

*Good Practice Guide – The Wash and North Norfolk Coast* [www.esfjc.co.uk](http://www.esfjc.co.uk)

*The Countryside Code* Natural England

[www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk)



**Safety** Geological field work is a very rewarding activity, but it has inherent risks – tides, tetanus, overhead wires, etc. Responsible field work transfers much responsibility to individuals, necessitating self-reliance, safety awareness, care and skill. The likelihood of hazards and severity of any outcomes should be assessed to help define risks and inform actions.

**Follow-up and Evaluation** Records of field meetings, when published, contain much useful information e.g. *Field Meeting: Coastal Suffolk Crag week-end, 23-25 April 2004*, by R G Dixon in Proceedings of the Geologists' Association vol.116, pages 149-160.

## ACCESS FOR ALL

Urban areas provide the most comprehensive access for wheelchair and pushchair users and each of Suffolk's three largest towns has areas of interesting geodiversity.

In Bury St Edmunds, the 'God's Square' complex (Abbey Gardens, Cathedral and St Mary's Church) shows a variety of building stones, especially limestones in the Cathedral - see *GeoSuffolk Notes* no.10A on [www.geosuffolk.co.uk](http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk).

In Lowestoft imaginative use has been made of igneous and metamorphic rocks in the Oxford and Cambridge Roads Home Zone shared space development.

Ipswich has the largest variety of building stones in its town centre with fine examples of local stones in its churches, a good representation of British rocks in its 19th century buildings and geology from around the world in its modern façades. See *An Ipswich Building Stone Walk* by Bob Markham in *White Admiral*, Suffolk Naturalists' Society Newsletter no.45 Spring 2000. <http://www.boxvalley.co.uk/nature/sns/wad.asp>. This town trail has also been used by a local severely disabled student (in a wheelchair), for an A level field work project on building stone rock types; the student passed with flying colours.

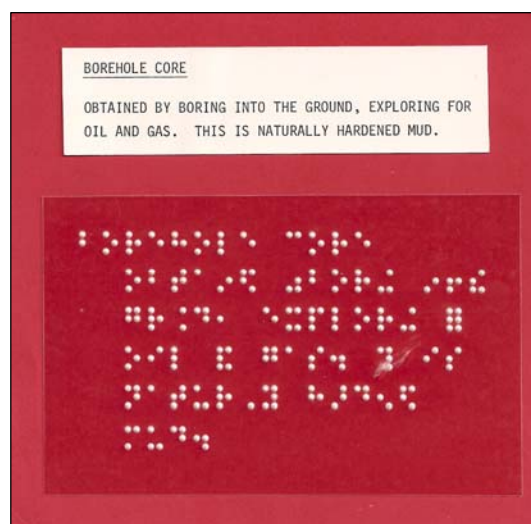
Rural sites with easy access paths include Aspal Close in Beck Row where natural depressions, probably over solution hollows in the underlying Chalk, can be viewed. There is a plastic membrane under the path as far as the seat.



Toby's Walks picnic site near Blythburgh has a hard-surfaced path which allows viewing of small gravel exposures and the Suffolk Mammoth Trail Panel.

See [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk)

Many geological specimens are relatively robust, tactile and not over-reliant on colour for identification. A Tactile Exhibition for blind and partially sighted people was held in Ipswich Museum in October 1981. Visitors were encouraged to handle specimens which were labelled both in Braille and heavy type. A full report of this event and of further suggestions and bibliography is given in *White Admiral* no.49 Summer-Autumn 2001, pp 23-24 (web site above).





## EDUCATION

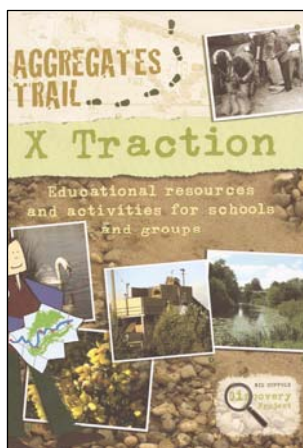
The Government's *Learning Outside the Classroom* Manifesto (2006) states, "Young people of all ages benefit from real life 'hands on' experiences; when they can see, hear, touch and explore the world around them." (see [www.lotc.org.uk](http://www.lotc.org.uk) ). Suffolk geodiversity has much to offer, with a wealth of sites for studying geology, landforms and processes relevant to both Science and Geography National Curriculum key concepts.

Tried and tested sites include:

- Dunwich and Easton Bavents have natural undefended cliffs and beaches for coastal studies, with coach parking nearby. Dunwich has a well-documented history of coastal erosion (see GeoSuffolk leaflet *Dunwich, The Geology of Suffolk's Lost City* and Dunwich Museum, [www.dunwichmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dunwichmuseum.org.uk)) and coastal erosion is causing problems at Easton Bavents at present (well-documented in the local press).
- Newbourne Springs provides an excellent site for stream study with minibus parking.
- Nacton Shore cliff is literally an 'outdoor classroom' for studying structural geology, with stratification, faults, and lithologies easy to see in the London Clay exposures. There is minibus parking here, (with some height restriction).

Safety is an important issue for teachers leading field trips, with water and cliffs being particularly hazardous. For more ideas on how to use some of these sites, including suggestions for risk management see *RIGS for Geography Education* by C Markham, Suffolk Natural History vol.41 2005.

Geodiversity is everywhere and local studies near the school are a good starting point for outdoor education. Building materials, for example can be used to lead on to further geo-studies. Mid Suffolk's Discovery Project Education Pack *X Traction* was developed as part of their Aggregates Trail. Based on the Gipping valley at Needham Market, it has an excellent work book for KS2 -3 on building materials in the town which could easily be adapted to other settlements. This leads onto further work on gravel extraction (at Needham Lakes) and river studies using the Gipping. Download a copy of their *Environmental Education* leaflet and booking form for the education pack from [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk) .



Glacial erratic boulder at Needham Lake