

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark (ERUGGp), UK, (European Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2007 / 2019



ERUGGp new interactive map was launched on International Geodiversity Day 2022

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 1 person (fulltime including the geoscientist) plus 2 part time (Senior Project Officer and Marketing Officer). Additionally, the ERUGGp management group is made up of core partner representatives and all ERUGGp partners incorporate the Geopark remit into the roles of their staff.

Number of visitors: It is estimated that the English Riviera attracted 4.1 million staying and day visitor numbers during 2022. This was an increase of around 14% on the 3.6 million in 2021. It should be noted that both 2020 and 2021 were both severely impacted by restrictions related to Covid 19 and whilst visitor numbers increased in 2022, they were still approximately 9% below 2019 pre-Covid levels which stood at 4.5 million.

Number of Geopark events: In total 82 events took place in 2022. As the ERUGGp works as a partnership organisation these were all run by the core and associate partners. Additionally, over 1,750 guided tours of Kents Cavern took place which equated to 57,000 people in total visiting the caves and 16413 visited Torre Abbey.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: In 2022 it remained difficult for Schools to engage due to their own logistical and staffing issues. Despite this, as an example of what was possible, Kents Cavern still welcomed 5,000 school students on educational trips whilst at Torre Abbey engaged with 441 across school trips and community projects working alongside Geopark Associate Partner Taleblazers.

Number of Geopark press release: There were five press releases covering the Geopark festival and other key activities and events however the ERUGGp now predominantly uses social media to

share information and news:

Facebook: Posts - 440, Reach – 161.5K

Twitter: Posts – 395, Reach 5 million

Instagram: Posts - 129, Reach – 6.4K

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- ERUGGp launched a new interactive 3D online map of the Geopark on the inaugural International Geodiversity Day. The map was created through a long-standing partnership with the Environmental Futures and Big Data Impact Lab project at the University of Plymouth. The project created an online interactive visualization tool, bringing together all the Geopark partner sites in an accessible way. The map is easy to navigate online and includes links to activities, points of interest, events, recommended walks and partner locations. Users can select different 'layers' to explore the Geopark. There is a standard map view, Street View, Satellite View and a unique Geology View, showing just how diverse the geology of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham is. The 3D map can be explored via www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk [here](#)

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Melanie Border continued her role on the GGN ExB
- Both Melanie Border and Nick Powe have continued as senior evaluators on the UNESCO Global Geopark Roster of Evaluators. Melanie completed the Sunnhordland evaluation mission whilst Nick completed the Batur UGGp, Indonesia, revalidation mission and Kinabalu aUGGp, Malaysia, evaluation mission
- Both Melanie and Nick attended the 45th EGN CC meeting in DeHondsrug (April 2022) and the EGN CC meeting and Conference in Sesia Val Grand (Sept 2022). All digital forums, the GGN welcome event etc. were attended

Management and Financial Status

- Regular management meetings have been held and the financial status is stable and secure
- A change management exercise was completed in 2022 and following consultation and involvement of the partners ERUGGp introduced a number of new key supporting documents including a Mission Statement, Organisational Goal, Vision and Spirit of Place
- A key focus for the Geopark Coordinator in 2022 was to work in consultation with all partners on the development of the new 2023-2033 management plan for the geopark; a major undertaking, the draft plan was developed to ensure all UGGp requirements are met alongside integrating the UNESCO SDG's. It was also informed by the change management

model and Spirit of Place which collectively led to the development of the ERUGGp approach and actions for the coming 10 years. The plan is set to be approved by the management group in early 2023 and then adopted at the full partner meeting in March 2023.

Geoconservation

- ERUGGp has been continuing to work with a range of national level partners and research is ongoing in relation to potentially highly significant fossil find. Details at present remain confidential.
- Throughout 2022 ERUGGp provided recommendations to Torbay Council planning department
- The Geopark Briefing Document for Planning related for designated and non-designated sites geological sites was introduced as a working document by Torbay Council Planning Department. It will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- ERUGGp supported the Natural England condition assessment of Berry Head National Nature Reserve
- Discussions with the private owners of Ash Hole Cave Scheduled Monument continued with the aim of bringing the cave back into positive management.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Supporting sustainable tourism ERUGGp formerly introduced its new Environmental Policy and Marine User Policy for the Geopark on Earth Day 2022 with a celebratory event and beach clean on Goodrington Sands.
- Working as a member of the Destination Management Group the geopark ensured that the position of the geopark within the new Destination Management Plan 2022-2030 was greatly enhanced and the UNESCO designation was recognised as a unique selling point. As a result the Geopark is one of the four growth theme priority areas but also acts as a golden thread for the resort throughout all activities.
- The ERUGGp is now positioned within the vision statement of both the Destination Management Plan, local Heritage strategy and Cultural Strategy

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Key progress in this area is through the ERUGGp's enhanced relationship with core partner South Devon College. During this period the college has fully embraced the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals not only integrating them into their student activities and tutorials but also across the entire operations of the college supporting its target to achieve a net zero carbon footprint for the College Estate by 2030. During 2022 the college also initiated development towards a new sustainability degree which will be linked to the ERUGGp and draw on examples for the wider UGGp network

Strategic partnership

- During 2022 we welcomed four new Associate Partners. TIDE coastal conservation organisation, Vigilance the Brixham heritage sailing trawler, Tonic Creatives a dynamic creative team dedicated to bringing people together through arts, heritage and cultural experiences and Fishcombe Cove Café a sustainably minded alfresco beach café with an active approach to raising awareness about how special the marine area of the geopark is

Promotional activities

- During 2022 ERUGGp has very much focused activity online through social media accounts

4. CONTACTS

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