

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Geodiversity Audit and Action Plan

Theme 3 Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity

Objective 5 To audit and document our geodiversity including sites, archives and collections.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (TVWT), in partnership with Tees Valley RIGS Group, is delivering the local Geodiversity Action Plan (GAP) through funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. TVWT strongly supports geodiversity activity in the area by encouraging practical action by local communities and schools, through education and volunteering opportunities. Forming the building blocks of the GAP, a year-long survey of geological and geomorphological exposures in the Tees Valley was undertaken solely by Tees Valley RIGS Group volunteers.

The involvement of volunteers in auditing the sites of interest has given the RIGS Group a real sense of ownership and passion for the Tees Valley GAP, as opposed to effectively 'managing' the GAP, had it been produced externally. Drawing on volunteer time has also enabled financial resources to be focused on supporting the on-the-ground activities of the RIGS Group, including the production and maintenance of an Internet-based GAP Database (currently being updated and modified).



Lower Jurassic rocks on the coast at Redcar, one of the important geological sites in the Tees Valley GAP area.

At present, the GAP Database identifies where people can go to access the geology of the Tees Valley and also explains what they are observing. For each audited site, the database provides basic site details and a description of the geodiversity resource, a location map, a photographic record of the features of interest, and a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the site in terms of 'access and safety', 'education and science', and overall 'geodiversity value'.