

Geodiversity

Biodiversity is fundamentally linked to underlying geological features. The term 'geodiversity', or geological diversity, encompasses rocks, minerals, soils, sediments, landforms and processes; all of which are the foundation for habitats, niches, and ultimately biodiversity.

For example Holyrood Park is sited on and around the Arthur's Seat volcano and is composed of a range of different bedrocks and sedimentary rocks. As a result acid, neutral and calcareous grasslands have all developed on the site depending on the underlying rock types.

While Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat are exceptional examples of geodiversity, many other important geodiversity sites in Edinburgh are recognised as nationally or locally important, including: Castle Rock, Calton Hill, parts of the Firth of Forth, Agassiz Rock, Corstorphine Hill, Torphin Quarry and many more.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Geodiversity Action Plan are to:

1. Protect important geological and geomorphological sites and landforms;
2. Raise awareness of geodiversity in Edinburgh, including its importance to biodiversity.

FUNDED ACTIONS

The following list of actions will be carried out by Partnership organisations during the lifetime of this Plan, and progress will be recorded in the Biodiversity Action Reporting System:

Action	Action description	Who?	Targets
GD01	Identify and designate Local Geodiversity Sites.	LABRIGS Committee , CEC Built and Natural Heritage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designate new sites identified by the Site Surveys Project Feb-Mar 2009. By end 2010 2. Develop definitive list and map of all designated sites, with basic information on location, geodiversity value, access and site condition. Publish on website. By end 2010 3. Identify further sites including geomorphological and building stone sites and maintain list of potential sites in Edinburgh. Designate further sites as appropriate. By end 2015 4. Publish overview leaflet / poster detailing all sites. By end 2015
GD02	Promote the value of Local Geodiversity Sites and engage with partners in their protection.	LABRIGS Committee , CEC Built and Natural Heritage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publicise sites to partners – e.g. within CEC, nature conservation groups, local groups with an interest in geology, local communities. By end 2010 2. Ensure sites are included in Local Plans and that there is specific mention of the need to protect Local Geodiversity in Local Plans and other policies. To 2015 3. Publish regular newsletter to keep partners informed. To 2015
GD03	Monitor condition of Local Geodiversity Sites.	LABRIGS Committee , LABRIGS volunteer group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use UKRIGS site monitoring form to record all site visits and note issues with access, vandalism, vegetation etc. By end 2010 2. Collate record of site monitoring visits, notify concerns to CEC and landowners. To 2015 3. Establish a programme to review all existing LGS. To 2015

Action	Action description	Who?	Targets
GD04	Promote use of Local Geodiversity Sites for education and raise public awareness of local geodiversity	LABRIGS Committee , LABRIGS volunteer group, Scottish Earth Science Education Forum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborate with partners including Scottish Earth Science Education Forum, CEC Countryside Ranger Service, local schools, etc to encourage use of local sites for formal and informal education. By end 2010 2. Attend local environment fairs and events. To 2015 3. Maintain range of leaflets and posters for the general public, supply to distribution network. By end 2010 4. Play lead role in developing resources (teachers' guides, etc) and offering training to promote wide use of sites by all educational sectors. To 2015 5. Evaluate effectiveness of existing leaflets and develop further leaflets and web resources etc. To 2015
GD05	Develop skills and resources to support the work of LABRIGS	LABRIGS Committee , LABRIGS volunteer group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to promote the work of LABRIGS to attract new volunteers. To 2015 2. Liaise with other RIGS Groups in Scotland to arrange regional meetings including training. To 2015

Lead partners for each action are shown in bold.

UNFUNDED PROJECTS

At the time of writing the following projects have not yet secured resources necessary for delivery. Their implementation is dependent upon funding becoming available.

Project	Action	Organisations
LABRIGS Project Officer	Seek funding for a Project Officer to support and extend the work of LABRIGS, perhaps in collaboration with other groups.	LABRIGS Committee

