

Geodiversity Profiles, Access and Safety

GeoValue: Valuing Geodiversity for the Community has been carried out by David Roche GeoConsulting and the findings have been published in January 2007 at a Conference held at the British Geological Survey headquarters near Nottingham. The project is part of the Mineral Industry Sustainable Technology Programme (MIST) established jointly by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Mineral Industry Research Organisation (MIRO) under the terms of reference of the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF). It has been in progress during 2005/6 and follows on from an initial scoping study project in 2004/5. **Professor Peter W Scott**, Emeritus Professor, University of Exeter (Camborne School of Mines) and consultant to David Roche GeoConsulting has been the project leader and the main contributor to the project.

GeoValue Highlights

Geodiversity Profiling has been developed and tested to provide an objective procedure to record and evaluate geodiversity at both man-made and natural rock exposure sites. A wide variety of sites have been visited and profiled across the country and the methodology and application is now well tested and is recommended as a tool for this purpose.

Access and Safety for visits to geological sites has been developed based on consultations with various UK quarry companies, landowners and other interested parties, and in collaboration with the Health & Safety Executive.

"We have been especially pleased with the response and help of various RIGS Groups and Geology Trusts to try out the Geodiversity Profile at a range of sites, as well as our project partners British Geological Survey and English Nature", says David Roche. "We also enjoyed working closely with the Health & Safety Executive and the time and assistance given by quarry companies which enabled us to research and write the Access & Safety Manual".

Safe access to active quarries and other rock exposures for geological visitors and the wider community to be able to examine, value and compare the geology is an ongoing need and the objective of the GeoValue Project – eg to see the rich colours and structures of Silurian interbedded volcanic lavas and shales in The Mendips, Somerset.

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GeoValue Report

Two special publications have been produced by the project to cover its two main components:

The Geodiversity Profile Handbook

A 60 page book with colour illustrations and appendices. It provides detailed explanation of the method and structure of The Geodiversity Profile and how it is determined by systematically defining and setting out in turn each of the components to be considered and the basis for each measurement and valuation. As well as a blank profile sheet, there is a selection of worked examples with commentary covering a range of geology and locations around the country. The background and purpose of The Geodiversity Profile is also provided.

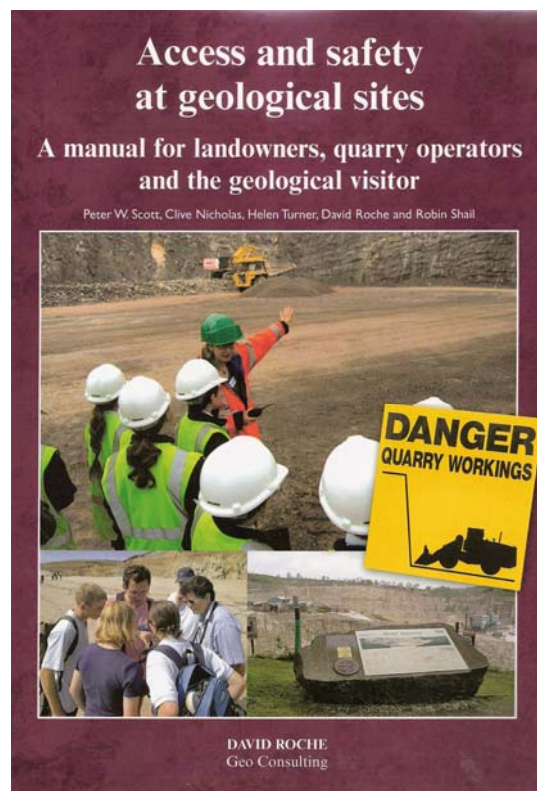
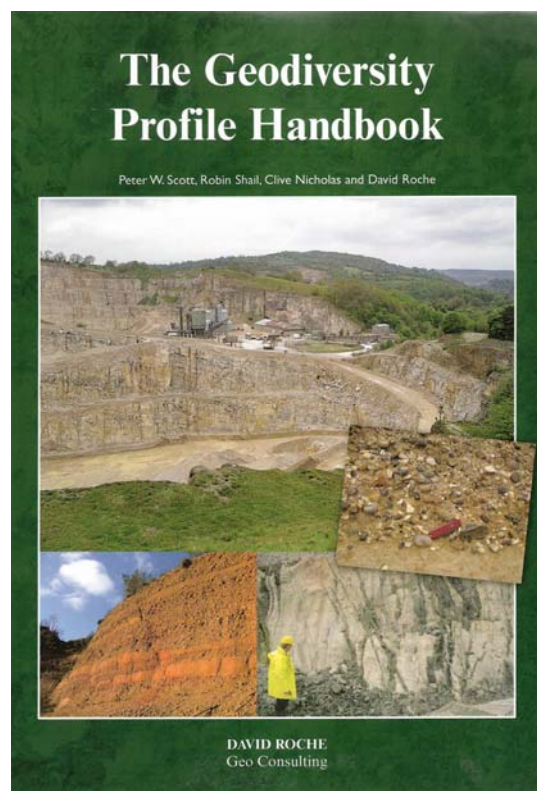
In addition to the selection of profiles published in the handbook, all of the Geodiversity Profiles completed during the course of the project will be included in the project report to MIRO.

Access & Safety Manual

A 52 page book with colour illustrations. It provides information about landownership, the law and rights of access by visitors, and the responsibilities for safety at geological site visits. An extended summary covers the principal points and refers to detail in tables and later text, and there are some interesting conclusions and recommendations on the way forward.

Partners and teamwork have been key elements in the project. The main contribution has been by project leader **Professor Peter Scott** with specific contributions and reviews by **Dr Clive Nicholas** and **Dr Robin Shail**, and by project director **David Roche**. **Helen Turner** of the Health & Safety Executive collaborated closely in writing the Access & Safety Manual. **Andrew Bloodworth** and colleagues at British Geological Survey, **Jonathan Larwood** and colleagues at English Nature, **Hugh Prudden** of Somerset Geology Group and **Peter Ealey** of Cornwall RIGS assisted with Geodiversity Profiling of sites and provided feedback. **Victoria Whitehouse** and **Sue Hocking** at Cornwall Wildlife Trust provided specialist input for the ecological component of the Geodiversity Profile and **Professor Jim Griffiths** of the University of Plymouth advised on geomorphological aspects. **Abbie Richards** has been the project manager for MIRO. The project conference at BGS Nottingham has been managed by **Christina Edwards** (BGS) and **Phillip Stephenson** (DRG).

Thanks to all the project team and partners for valuable contributions and for cooperation and commitment to the project.



Front covers of the two special publications for GeoValue produced by graphic designers and printers.



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