Bedfordshire Geology Group

Formed in 2004 by a group of amateur and professional geologists aiming to encourage an understanding of the rocks and landforms of the county for the benefit of all.

For more information, contact us through our website www.bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk or by email to secretary@bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk

Greensand Country Landscape Partnership (GCLP)

Launched in January 2017, and secured £1.66m National Lottery funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support an array of exciting projects.

We’re working across Greensand Country – from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay – to help manage and preserve historic parklands, woodlands and heathland in the area.

We’re also working with local communities to celebrate the history and heritage of the area. For more information, contact us through our website www.greensandcountry.com

Directions from RSPB

This circular walk has some steep sections and starts from the RSPB’s Gatehouse car park (parking charge). Follow the Galley Hill Trail, beginning opposite the Gatehouse, through the heathland. At the junction, turn right towards Sandy and on your right, look for a small former quarry revealing an outcrop of rock (1).

Retrace your steps, rejoining the trail passing the head of a valley (2) to reach the outer ditch and bank of a hillfort (3), situated on a vantage point overlooking the Ivel valley. Continue and descend into and out of another valley (4) featuring manmade pools.

On the far side, join the Quarry Trail and take steep steps on the right, continuing until you reach the old quarry (5). Above it is the Lodge. After exploring the quarry, follow the Trail with occasional views out through the trees (6). Skirt the back of The Lodge, through a gate and continue until the trail reaches the access road and follow it back to the Gatehouse car park.

Eastern Geotrail

Earth Heritage of Greensand Country

This leaflet has been developed by Bedfordshire Geology Group in partnership with Greensand Country Landscape Partnership to bring our landscape and heritage alive.

At the curve in the minor road (L4), turn left to Dirok then turn right and follow the bridleway eastwards into Potton. Turn left into Newtown, right into Mill Lane and continue ahead into Everton Rd. Join the Potton circular walk by turning right at the junction into Willow Road (P5).

Directions from Church of St Mary the Virgin

Please take care when crossing roads and be respectful around private dwellings. Park at the church hall and cross to the Church of St Mary the Virgin (P1). Having explored this, return to the church hall (P2) and walk along Church Causeway (P3), crossing over Potton Brook to reach King St. Turn right, pass (P2), then turn left into Willow Rd (P3). At the end of the road turn left into Station Rd and then left again along Station Rd, continuing past (P4).

Continue straight on, past the Rising Sun pub then continue along Willow Rd, at the end of the road, go right into Station Rd. At the mini roundabout is Railway Station House (P5). Turn around and return along Station Rd, continuing past (P6) and turn left into Chapel St (P7). Continue straight on, past the Railroad Hotel then turn left into Station Rd. At the junction turn right and continue along Station Rd, passing (P7), and turn left into Chapel St (P8). Return to Station Rd and turn left into Blackbird Stand at the corner, veer right into Horne Lane to see a garden wall (P9).

Turn around and return to Blackbird St which runs into Sun St. Before reaching the won centre, look left along Chapel Court (P10). Continue along Sun St and immediately turn left into Willow Rd. At the junction turn right and continue along Willow Rd, turning left into Station Rd and continuing past Railway Station House (P6) and returning to the church hall.
Potters is a small market gardening town with a wealth of sandstone buildings and a heritage of industrial geology. During the 19th century, the town was known for its stone used in various industries such as building, road construction, and agricultural uses. The sandstone, known as Woburn Sands, was deposited in an estuary over 120 million years ago, and the iron-rich sandstones that appear almost black are indicative of the geology around Potton. The iron is thought to have been formed from a superplume event (a massive underwater volcanic eruption) that occurred 125 million years ago depositing enormous amounts of iron into the oceans creating iron fertilisation and a huge change in global environments. Hence, iron-rich sandstones that we see across Greensand Country.

This unusual building, Castle House, looks old but was built in the 19th C. and shows the Potton herringbone style of construction. Another beautiful sandstone structure is Congregational Hall, another building with the Potton herringbone style of construction and the last stop on the walk.

Maps not to scale