Towards A UNESCO Global Geopark for East Yorkshire

‘A forgotten landscape of ancient habitation from Jurassic Filey Brigg through the most northerly chalk of The Wolds and Flamborough Head to the eroding glacial tills of Holderness: Landscape, Archaeology and Community’
The Geopark is planned to cover the old geographical area of the East Riding of Yorkshire from the River Derwent in the North and West, The Humber/Ouse in the South and the Holderness coast in the East up to and including Filey Brigg and would also include the offshore Marine Conservation Zone, along the coast.

Goole and Kingston upon Hull would be just outside the Geopark.

This boundary would therefore include parts of the Vales of Pickering and York and the whole of Holderness with its geohistorical links with the post Ice Age landmass of Doggerland stretching across the North Sea to Holland and Denmark.
• What is a UNESCO Global Geopark?

• Why a Geopark for East Yorkshire?
UNESCO Global Geoparks

• Geological heritage of international significance
• Managed holistically for sustainable tourism, protection and education
• In connection with all other heritage.
• Booklet available from https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000243650_eng
UNESCO Global Geoparks

• NOT a ‘geological park’

• NOT just about geology

• NOT a legislative designation

• NOT a permanent designation

North Pennines UNESCO Global Geopark, UK
UNESCO Global Geoparks

are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area’s natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our Earth’s resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing the impact of natural disasters. By raising awareness of the importance of the area’s geological heritage in history and society today, UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area. The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high quality training courses is stimulated as new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism, while the geological resources of the area are protected.
Top Ten Topics within UNESCO Global Geoparks

Natural Resources
Geological Hazards
Climate Change
Education
Science
Culture
Women
Sustainable Development
Local Knowledge
Geoconservation
8 UK Geoparks

- English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark
- Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark
- Ynys Mon/Anglesey GeoMôn UNESCO Global Geopark
- Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark
- North Pennines AONB UNESCO Global Geopark
- North West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark
  - Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark
  - Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark
Background Geology

- Doggerland
- Ice Sheets, Tundra, Dry Valleys
  - Sewerby Buried Cliff
  - Tertiary Landscape
    - Scarp and Vale
    - Wolds Shatter Belt
  - Northern Chalk
  - Speeton Clay
- Market Weighton Axis
- Triassic deserts and salt lakes

For a list of Regionally Important Sites in the area see: [http://www.hullgeolsoc.co.uk/RIGSlist.html](http://www.hullgeolsoc.co.uk/RIGSlist.html)
Archaeology

• Star Carr, Mesolithic site: [http://www.starcarr.com/index.html](http://www.starcarr.com/index.html)
  • Barmston Drain lake-dwelling, Bronze Age
  • Skipsea Withow Mere Bronze Age Beaver Dam
  • Pocklington Cemetery and Iron Age Chariot Burials
  • Skipsea Iron Age Mound and Norman Castle site
    • Wetwang Slack Cemetery
• Foulness Prehistoric Landscape and Hasholme Iron Age Boat
  • Wold Newton Romano-British sites
• West Heslerton Project – Early Anglo-Saxon back to Neolithic
  • Wharram Percy Deserted Medieval Village

For a list of Scheduled Ancient Monuments see:
[https://ancientmonuments.uk/england/east-riding-of-yorkshire#.YVW5w5rMKUk](https://ancientmonuments.uk/england/east-riding-of-yorkshire#.YVW5w5rMKUk)
East Yorkshire Heritage

- Country Houses, Gardens and Museums
  - Wolds Heritage Centre
  - Great Wold Valley Heritage Trail
    - Pilgrimage of Grace Trail
  - Wolds Way and Long Distance Footpaths
    - Disused Canals and Railways
    - Wolds Scenery (Hockney Trail)
  - Flamborough Head, Filey Brigg and Spurn Point
    - Nature Reserves, SSSI’s and RIGS
    - Castles and Lighthouses
  - Monoliths, Barrows, Cursus, Dolines, Roman Villas, DMV’s and Chariot Burials
    - Market Towns and Villages
  - Historic Churches and other Vernacular stone built buildings
    - Coastal Holiday Towns
Ecology

- Hornsea Mere SSSI
- Kilnsea Wetlands Nature Reserve
- Holderness Inshore and Offshore Marine Conservation Zone
  - Bempton Cliffs RSPB Reserve
- The Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve
  - Spurn Point
  - Humber Estuary
- Flamborough Head SSSI
  - Tophill Low SSSi
- The River Hull Catchment
- The Foulness Catchment

For a list of sites see: https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteList.aspx?siteName=&countyCode=13&responsiblePerson=&DesignationType=All
Project Management and Governance

Steering Group (7+)
- Chair
- Secretary
- National Trails Officer
- Council Liaison Officer
- Active Members
- Treasurer – vacant
- Web Master - vacant

Support Group (60+)
- UK Geoparks
- Local and other Universities
- Local and Regional Trusts
  - Local Authorities
  - Interested Individuals
- Research Groups
- National Bodies
- National Government Agencies
- Local and Regional Societies

For Further information, please contact:
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Paul Thornley, Secretary  ypsgeology@gmail.com
Progress to Date

• Support Group recruitment and meetings
• Briefing Paper, Mission Statement and Gazetteer
• Geoeducational programme of visits, walks and talks
• Funding applications to support display material
• Liaison with National, Regional and Local Bodies
• Liaison with local authority Councillors and Officers
  • Engagement with UK Geoparks
• University of Hull Final Year student Geopark themed Professional Consultancy Project (2 complete, one in planning)

AONB for the Yorkshire Wolds v Geopark

Recent work has started on proposing AONB status for the Yorkshire Wolds.
AONB is a statutory designation. It protects the land to preserve and enhance its natural beauty, for example Howardian Hills and Nidderdale.

A UNESCO Global Geopark is an international accreditation or kitemark without legal designation, as slide no.6.
There are several areas of the UK where Geoparks operate within AONB’s or National Parks.
We see no areas of disagreement or clashes of interest between the two projects.