



Photo: Vladimir Makarikhin



ProGEO Working group No 3

Meeting in Latvia

ProGEO Working Group 3 for Northern Europe had a successful meeting with plenary sessions in Riga and excursions in northern Latvia in May 24 - 27.

We had a fascinating evening tour in Old Riga, with many memories from the happy Swedish time in the 17th Century.

The plenary meeting was chaired by Carl Erik Johansson who stated that our Latvian friends are on their right ProGEO way with this important meeting arranged by the faculty of Geography at the University of Riga in co-operation with the State Geological Survey of Latvia, the Geological Survey of Lithuania and supported by the Geological Surveys of Estonia and Sweden. Maris Seglins, Director of the State Geological Survey of Latvia, made the participants feel welcome.

The GEOSITES project was reported by Bill Wimbledon who urged the members to complete the national frameworks. With a complete framework it is



*From the excursions
at Daugava ri-
ver. Photo: Vladimir
Makarikhin*

time to select sites, by comparing candidates objectively and methodically within an international context. National specialists will make the scientifically judgements for the selection of sites. When the work of ProGEO for the Geosite list is finished, a (World) Heritage selection database will be created within IUGS, for the possibility to balance priorities when it comes to management, planning, etc, and the possibility to assess geosites.

Jonas Satkunas, chairman of ProGEO WG No 3 presented the group and its work, and greeted also Latvia very welcome.

Aivars Markots, Gatis Pavils and Inga Gavena gave a very interesting survey and insight of the geological heritage in Latvia, its protection and the Latvian geosites inventory. Latvia has made much progress in inventory, planning, protecting and registering Geosites of various types and site, with constructive protection forms.

Gatils Pavils demonstrated the Latvian geosite database. It includes information about protected geosites, geological and administrative issues. The Latvian group is also developing a homepage.

A series of round table presentations and discussions were lead by Jonas Satkunas.

Glimpses of Geodiversity in Nordic Nature Conservation were given by Carl Erik Johansson who showed the new book Nord 2000:8 from the Nordic Council of Ministers and gave the book to Latvian colleagues and to Jonas Satkunas.

John Morris presented an update of a Geosites framework in the Republic of Ireland. Krista Täht and Rein Raudsep showed selection of representative geotopes in Estonia. Some sites have been added as candidates to the Northern European list.

Geosites of global significance in NW Russia were elucidated by Marina Vdovets. Presently there are 15 geosites selected. They are not all protected yet.

John Morris also showed the Karst Theme of the Irish Geological Heritage Programme. Ireland has no legal protection concerning geological features yet. As soon as the Programme is accomplished concerning sites they may obtain protection.

Representative geosites of Northern Belarus, mainly examples of glaciation-deglaciation, were shown by Olga and Mikhail Komarowski.

Jonathan Larwood asked what happens with quarries when they stop working and gave some answers, showing the need of outcrop management. He demonstrated different possibilities for management and ways to interest excavating companies in England. He distributed some brochures from English Nature: "Managing geological sites" and "Biodiversity and minerals (A guide to planning, operating, restoring and managing mineral sites for biodiversity)".

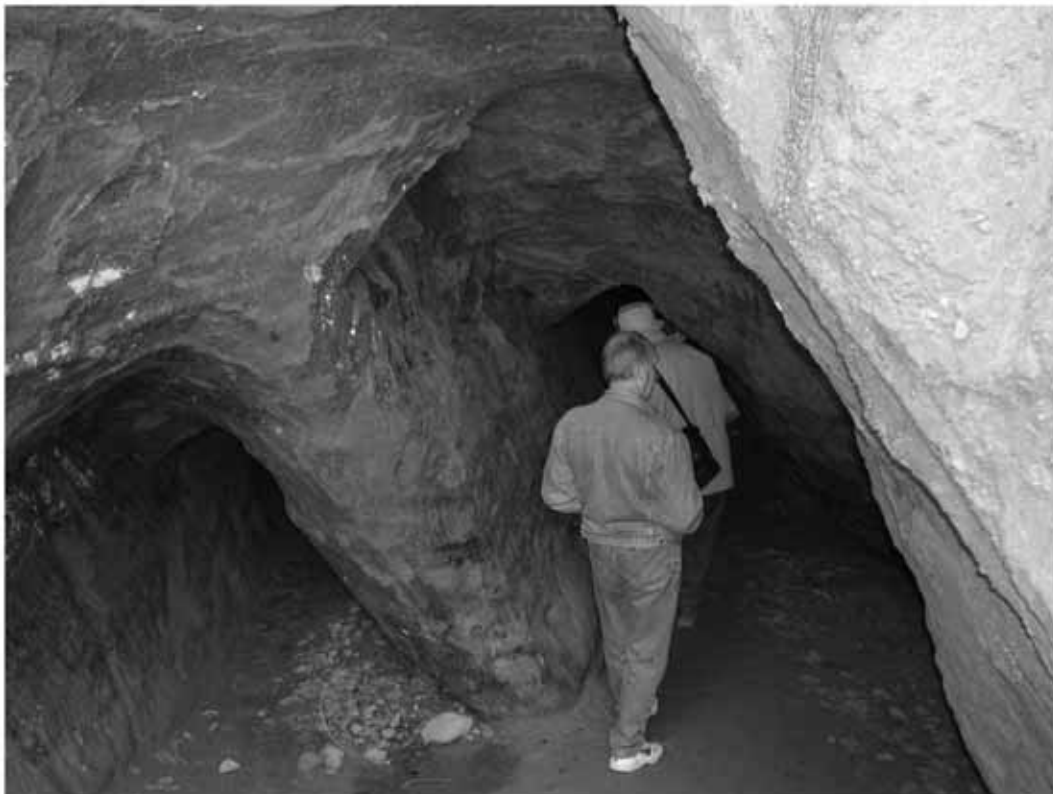
Polish-Lithuanian co-operation to inform on Geotopes - from geotouristic map to data base was presented by Vidas Mikulenas. The Curonian spit that we visited in 1999 is now declared as a World Heritage. Some ideas of European Geoparks were presented by John Morris.

John Morris presented the project draft Landscapes through time and gave ideas how to perform it. He showed a video sequence as example on the possibilities of digital animation.

Excursions

Two days of interesting excursions showed the geodiversity of northern Latvia:

- Sandstones of the Burtnieki Formation with wave-cut notches exposed at shore of the Riga Gulf,
- Caves in the Devonian sandstones; a site of ancient cult and suffosion phenomena,
- Reddish sandstones of the Burtnieki Formation - outcrop along a Hercynian fracture,
- Reddish sandstones of the Burtnieki Formation - outcrop at the Salaca River with the longest caves in sandstone in Latvia,
- White sandstones of the Sietini Formation with various bedding structures and silicified plant remains,
- Sandstones of the Gauja Formation with erosional surfaces, clay and phosphatic conglomerates,
- Clayey deposits of the Lode Formation with well-preserved fish remains and large-scale slump depressions,
- Varieties of freshwater limestone, springs and travertine in the Goat Valley,
- A series of springs and spring fens in the Vaive River valley with



*From the excursions
in Sacrifice caves.
Photo: Vladimir Makarikhin*



*From the excursions at Near clay quarry.
Photo: Vladimir Makarikhin*

much water discharge.

Abstracts and excursion site were presented in a well-prepared guide and abstract volume by our Latvian friends who performed the meeting very well.

Business meeting

Once again is stressed that a platform for information concerning the status of conservation in each country is strongly needed. The information will mainly be used to increase knowledge and understanding amongst participating members and to facilitate the work within the group. A renewed request to answer the questionnaire (published on the home sub-page) is made. Deadline is set to the end of 2001, and national representatives are responsible for the accomplishment.

Since last meeting, when the framework for the home sub-page was determined, it is noted that text under some headings is to be completed/ revised. Bill Wimbledon and Carl Erik Johansson will make a summary of Geodiversity in Nordic Nature Conservation for the heading Framework of geodiversity (introducing the concept, as well as showing regional geology and diversity).

An informal character of the activities is vital for WG 3. A "rotation policy" with delegation of functions within the group is welcomed. John Morris will kindly make a draft for such a document.

Jonas Satkunas kindly continues as chairman of the working group. Krista Täht of Estonia is secretary after Gunnel Ransed who concentrates on the treasurer function of ProGEO.

As stated concerning bibliography, complete reports should be published on the web site (home page).

John Morris informed about the great meeting in Dublin, September 2002, with the theme "Cultural and Natural Landscapes: the geological foundation". The meeting will include the ProGEO general assembly.

Vladimir Makarikhin invited to a working group meeting in Karelia in May, 2002. A previous invitation for a ProGEO meeting (including the general assembly) in Denmark 2002 is previously given to Bill Wimbledon. Steen Andersen, contacted by Johansson, has now answered that "it is quite a challenge, but he must consider how he can tackle it as he goes into pension at the end of this year". It seems uncertain whether a meeting in Denmark in May 2002 is realistic (Johansson's personal comment).

If the working group is to present Geosites framework of North European region in a joint document in Dublin next year all national frameworks must be finished until the next May. Bill Wimbledon will act as co-ordinating secretary in the working group. National panels will be of great help in compiling the framework for each country.



Carl Erik Johansson & Gunnel Ransed
**NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES:
THE GEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION**

DUBLIN, IRELAND – SEPTEMBER 9 – 11, 2002.

For those of us active in geological heritage conservation, management and presentation, it is self-evident that geology is the foundation upon which all human activities, history and culture are based. Unfortunately, that cannot be said generally for either the wider general public or politicians and decision makers at all levels from local, to national or international level. There is an enormous awareness deficit. As a result, we see all things and matters geological languishing on the sidelines of public

and political consciousness, while other dimensions of hu

man and natural heritage occupy centre stage. No single action can hope to remedy that deficit instantly, but it is our obligation to strive to do everything we can to redress the awareness and appreciation imbalance.

The 3 day international Conference planned to be held in Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland, in September, 2002 is our attempt to contribute to redressing that imbalance. While geology has a generally very low profile in Ireland, there is very strong public and political awareness of landscape, the biological environment and cultural heritage. Consequently, the Conference has been very deliberately planned to use these very high profile dimensions as the framework for promoting consciousness of what lies beneath it all – geology. In that context, it is neither a pure geology nor geological heritage conference,



Dublin Castle in the centre of Dublin is the venue for the landscapes conference in

and this is reflected in the objectives and content of the conference and its various themes.

The Conference has several objectives:

- to promote awareness of geology as the foundation of landscapes throughout Europe;
- to emphasise the links between biodiversity and geodiversity; and similarly between geology and human cultural development;
- to contribute to better informed landscape decision making which includes the geological dimension.

These objectives will be addressed in 8 thematic sessions, some of which will also include "breakout" discussions to consider and develop specific recommendations:

- The evolution of the present day landscape
- Integration of bio- and geodiversity: an holistic approach
- The interaction between humans, geology and landscapes ["Cultural Geology"]
- Protection and management of landscapes:
 - nationally and internationally

- at local and community levels
- How to promote appreciation and enjoyment
- Tourism and recreational uses
- The future: developing an agenda

Field excursions will be available, both before and after the Conference. On Sunday, September 8, there will be a choice of 2, one day excursions, to either the Wicklow Mountains [landscape, geology and mine heritage]; or to the Boyne Valley [landscape, geology and megalithic tombs]. After the Conference, there is again a choice of 2 excursions, each lasting 3 days, from September 12 – 14. The first choice is to the north of Ireland, to examine the geology and landscapes of Antrim, Down and Donegal, including the Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site.

The alternative trip will be to west and southwest Ireland to examine the karst landscape of the Burren and the oldest known, in-situ tetrapod trackway anywhere in the world, on Valentia Island.

The Conference is being organised by the Royal Irish Academy in association with the Geological Survey of Ireland, the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, and with the support of the Heritage Council of Ireland and ProGEO. A first circular is currently being printed, and it is intended that digital copies will also be posted on the Geological Survey of Ireland [www.gsi.ie] and ProGEO websites [www.sgu.se/hotell/progeo/]. While keynote speakers will be specifically invited for each of the 8 technical sessions, contributed presentations are also invited. It should however be noted that funds to sponsor both speakers and ProGEO delegates are very limited, and, in addition Dublin is an expensive venue, due to its popularity as a tourist destination.

For further information, contact John Morris at the Geological Survey of



An aerial view of the limestone terraces, turloughs and enclosed depressions of the karstic Burren region, on the itinerary of one of the post conference field excursions.



NEWS

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Progress on the Irish Geological He- ritage Programme

The final theme reports and site reports documenting 40 karst sites and 43 Precambrian to Devonian Palaeontology sites have recently been delivered by the Geological Survey of Ireland to Dúchas The Heritage Service. The two bodies, from different

government departments, are in partnership to identify, document and select the most important geological sites in the Republic of Ireland as Natural Heritage Areas, under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

Although the Act has yet to be fully implemented, and the sites will have to go through a designation process where landowners can appeal against the designation, the prospects for some genuine protection for some of Ireland's geological heritage is now good. However, the programme is not just about protection but in many cases appreciation is more important, and the designation is more of a label to say to everyone that it is an interesting and important natural place.

Due to widespread development in Ireland, the programme approach of working theme by theme, is changing to compile indicative lists of sites for **all** themes as the next step, since there is a great demand for information now, and a strong risk of losing important localities. The full detailed site reports and NHA selection process from the candidate sites for each theme will then be completed.

One good piece of news is that the Valentia Island Tetrapod Trackway site in SW Ireland, that was included in the Madrid ProGEO Conference Book, was finally purchased by the State from the landowner, at the end of 2000. The bad news is that the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease over the last few months, and all the restrictions on any geological fieldwork and countryside access that were imposed, has meant that no progress has been made on the site. It is hoped to commence the work on access and interpretation later in the summer.

Matthew Parkes



The Valentia Island Tetrapod Trackway winds across the bedding plane.



NEWS



Geological Sites of Abania, Map 1.500 000

I would like to inform about compilation for the first time of a Map of Geological Sites of Albania. This map is presented under the logo of Geological Survey of Albania-Geological Research Institute and -ProGEO.

Last March we finished the compilation of this map in the scale 1:500 000. In the map there are presented all geological sites included in the First Inventory of Geotops of Albania, which was compiled

by the end of 1999 .

There are presented 358 geological sites of local, district, national and international importance. The widest group is the group of geomorphologic geotops of total amount 266. Here are included geotops formed mainly as result of erosion, karstic, glacial and neotectonic processes and representing aesthetic landscapes.

There are also included 17 Stratigraphical pattern sections, 15 geotops of magmatic, metamorphic and sedimentary rocky complexes, 14 economical-metallogenic geotops (some of them represent unique ore deposits), 2 geosites of continental-oceanic relationships, 5 historical sites, 20 paleoenvironment sites, 2 paleobiological geotops, and 1 geosite of spherulites, belonging to astroproblems as well as National forest parks, hunting lands and some separate old trees proclaimed as natural monuments.

The Map of Geological Sites of Albania was compiled by A. Serjani and A. Neziraj and was realized in "Microstation" Program by M. Luli and A. Avxhi. The Map is in Albanian version. We hope also to do an English version.

Afat Serjani

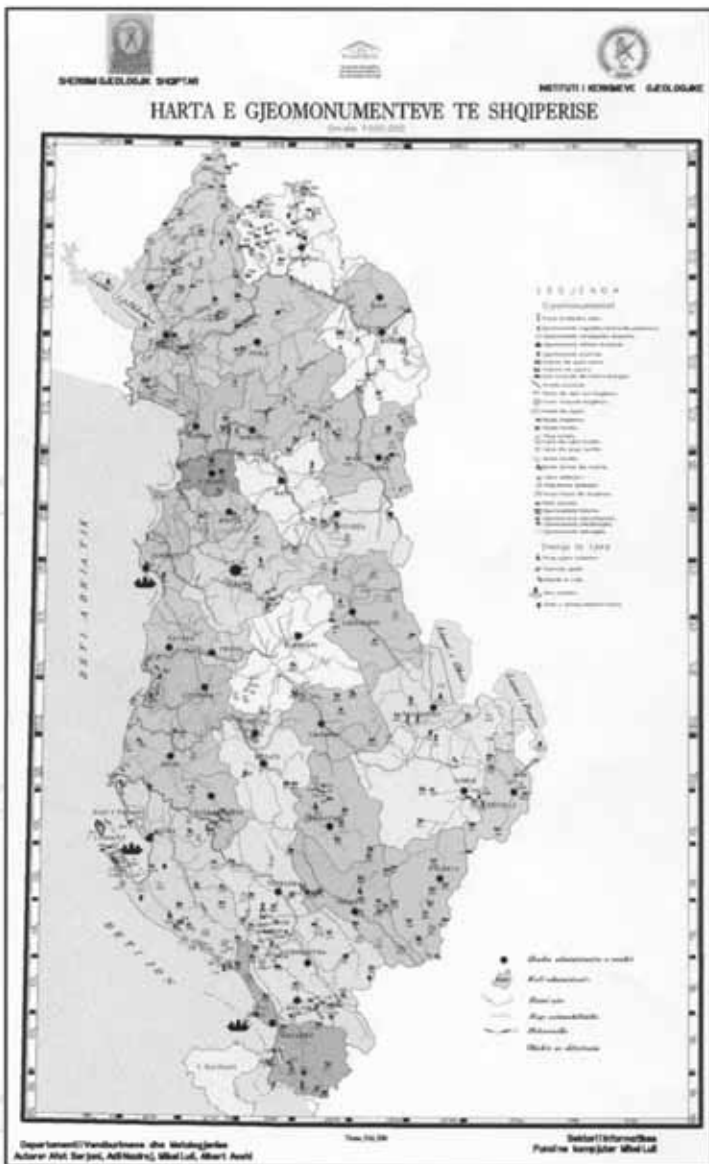


Ontributions to ProGEO NEWS

ProGeo NEWS are dependent on your contributions. You will notice in this number a concentration of northern Europe. Where is contributions from the other working group, what is happening in the south of Europe???

Send your contributions to ProGEO NEWS. News, debate, presentations – everything is welcomed. The aim of the newsletter is to keep our members informed about geoconservation in Europe. Please help the editor with this task!

The editor





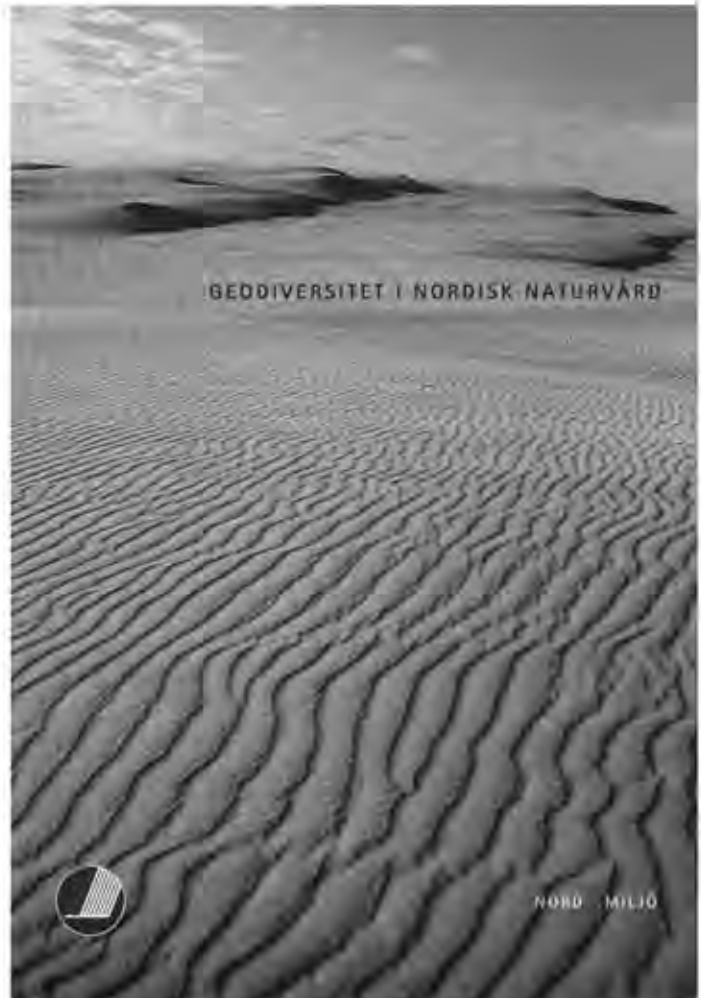
Geodiversity in the Nordic countries

The final report from this project is now finished. It is written in Swedish with an English summary. Short versions of the report will later be available in all Nordic languages and in English.

The report concentrates on the term geodiversity and how this should be understood, evaluation of geodiversity, geodiversity in natural management, geodiversity – processes and regions, and gives several examples from all the Nordic countries.

A preliminary summary has earlier been published in proGEO NEWS. The report has been edited by Carl Erik Johansson with Markus Alpassi, Steen Andersen, Lars Erikstad, Kristján Geirsson, Annika Jansson and Veli Suominen as co-authors and is published in the series **NORD:8 2000** by the Nordic councils of ministers.

Lars Erikstad



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A PRIORITAIRE
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OG KULTURMINNEPORSERNING