

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark (United Kingdom, European Geoparks Network)

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2009/2017

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 25 staff, including 2 geoscientists

**Number of Visitors:** 100,000+ visitors to the Geopark, 80,000 visitors to Shetland Museum and Archives (including locals).

**Number of Geopark events:** 8 events held by management body, 1 by co-operating organisations

**Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 56

**Number of Geopark press release:** 20 approx.

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2017:

Lead organiser of the Shetland Nature Festival, incorporating European Geoparks Week. Approximately 1200 people took part in 38 events throughout the Geopark, between 1<sup>st</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July.

Work on the transnational Drifting Apart project, for which we are lead Scottish partner, has continued. Through this project, work has commenced on improvements to the geological interpretation in the Shetland Museum and Archives, including an animation and virtual reality (GeoVR) exhibits. A new Devonian Trail is almost complete. Through consultation with project partners, we have also developed toolkits to help Geoparks to work through the process of engagement with communities and tourism providers.

Secured funding in April for the continuation of the Peatland Restoration project. A number of projects are now underway, ensuring the restoration of a further 35Ha of peatland. The project will involve local school children, helping them work towards a John Muir Award.

Held a very successful peatland-restoration volunteer event, transplanting sphagnum moss to re-wetted peatland.

Ran a 'Beginners' Geology' course, led by a local geologist, as part of Scotland's Geoheritage Festival.

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation:

Participation in the 33rd European Geoparks Network Coordination Committee meeting in Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark, Ireland, March 2017.

Participation in the 14<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Network Conference in Azores UNESCO Global Geopark and the 40<sup>th</sup> EGN CC meeting in Azores UNESCO Global Geopark.

Contribution of an article on peatland restoration in Shetland for the EGN Magazine Issue 15.

Continued participation in transnational Drifting Apart project. Attended meetings in Stonehammer, Magma UNESCO Global Geoparks, and final conference in Reykjanes UNESCO Global Geopark.

Contributed to '50 best places' project, which will promote 50 places where the public can engage with the best of Scotland's geological heritage, and includes three sites in Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark.

Regular communication with Scottish Geoparks Partnership.

### **Management and Financial status:**

Shetland Amenity Trust has undergone a significant restructure in 2017. The Geopark is now in a much stronger position, both financially and structurally. In addition, we have secured local authority funding to cover core Geopark costs.

Appointed new Geopark Advisory Team which is representative of Geopark's stakeholders.

### **Geoconservation:**

Monitoring of Geosites and Local Nature Conservation Sites is ongoing.

Monitoring and maintenance of Shetland's Core Path Network and access routes is ongoing.

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism):**

Development of new Devonian Trail, to be completed and published in 2018.

### **New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction:**

Hosted two days of workshops by British Geological Survey, in partnership with Lerwick Magnetic Observatory, at Shetland Museum & Archives.

### **Strategic Partnership:**

Worked with several partners, including Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Natural Heritage, local authority and local businesses, through Shetland Nature Festival (incorporating European Geoparks Week).

Started work on new contracts and guidelines for Geopark partners.

### **Promotional activities:**

Numerous interviews and articles on the work of Shetland Amenity Trust (management body of Shetland UGG) in the national and regional media.

Continued and regular updating of relevant social media pages.

#### 4. CONTACTS:

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