

Annual Geoconservation Gathering

Ulster Museum, Belfast

Friday 20th October 2017

Theme: Geoconservation and tourism

Geological tourism is no longer seen as a niche market with visitor attractions such as the Giant's Causeway and the Cliffs of Moher topping the most-visited polls on the island of Ireland. The benefits to the economy as well as the increased awareness and understanding of geoscience that sites such as these bring is certainly very welcome, but we need to be careful that this is not at the expense of geological integrity. This year's Geoconservation Gathering will look at how geoconservation and sustainable tourism can and should work together with examples from across the island of Ireland.

Event chair: TBC

Schedule

Friday 20th October

- 13.30 Launch of Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter
- 14.00 Welcome and introduction to Geoconservation Gathering
- 14.10 Dr Kirstin Lemon: Geotourism in Northern Ireland – the good, the bad and the ugly
- 14.20 Richard Watson: The Stairway to Heaven: sustainable geotourism in challenging environments
- 14.30 Dr Andrew Bratton: Drifting Apart – a balance between conservation and tourism
- 14.40 Martin Carey: The Granite Trail – geology, heritage and tourism
- 14.50 Dr Sarah Gatley: County Geological Audits and their influence on geotourism
- 15.00 Tea and Coffee
- 15.15 Workshops
- 16.15 Event round-up
- 16.30 Wine reception
- 18.00 Event close

Saturday 21st October

- 09.00 Field trip along Causeway Coastal route including The Gobbins and Giant's Causeway
- 17.00 Return to Belfast

