

Engaging with Geodiversity: “Stone Voices”, Creativity and Cultural Landscapes in Scotland

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Geodiversity is an integral part of Scotland’s natural heritage and is closely linked with many aspects of the cultural landscape and the development of geotourism. These links provide opportunities for creative ways of raising awareness of Scotland’s Earth heritage, complementing more traditional didactic approaches to interpretation. The ‘voices’ of the stones open new opportunities for re-engagement with geodiversity and are revealed in different ways through links with archaeology, the built heritage, literature, poetry and art. The creative influence of geodiversity also allows a broader interdisciplinary exploration of the cultural engagement with geological landscapes and the deep connections between people and the natural world. This highlights the continuity between the present and the past, and helps to link people with their cultural roots, Earth heritage and sense of place. This approach can also enable Earth scientists to engage with a much wider audience and to promote better appreciation of the relevance of geoscience in an increasingly dynamic world influenced by climate change.

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