

Presenting Loess Geotourism In The Future: Some Considerations Drawn From Previous Approaches to 'Hard' and 'Soft' Rock Geosites

Thomas A. Hose

Buckinghamshire New University, Department of Tourism, School of Applied Management and Law, Faculty of Design, Media and Management, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP11 2JZ, United Kingdom

This paper presents an overview and model of geotourism interpretative provision for both generic geological/geomorphological and geosite with specifically loess and other related periglacial deposits and structures. Geotourism was first defined (Hose, 1995a) following a study of 'site-specific geologic interpretative provision' media and usage at some classic geosites in lowland England (Hose, 1995b, 1999, 2000a; Page, Keene, Edmonds & Hose, 1995). Following further research, the original definition (Hose, 1995a) was modified and for the purposes of this paper it is initially defined as: *'The provision of interpretative facilities and services to promote the value and societal benefit of geological and geomorphological sites and their materials, and to ensure their conservation, for the use of students, tourists and other casual recreationalists.'* (Hose, 2003). The inclusion of both geology/geomorphology and geoconservation separates this approach from both earlier and later attempts at geotourism's definition.

Some theoretical consideration of the nature and purposes of geotourism interpretative provision (Hose, 2000b), coupled with an overview of interpretative competence, is essential to underpin the included case studies and examples from UK, but not exclusively loess, geosites (Hose, 2005a, 2005b). Material is also necessarily drawn from wider afield including Asia (Chul-Ho & Sang-Hoon, 2007), Australasia, Europe (Crawford & Black, 2009; Lutze, Kiesel & Dalchow, 2005), North America, and South America (Poli, 2005). These geosites and their interpretative management and provision for geotourism highlight key issues and approaches around successful interpretative provision for both generic and specifically loess geosites. These issues and approaches are explored and developed to establish a new theoretical underpinning; consequently, the paper closes with a newly revised model, framework and strategy for geosite interpretative provision.

References

- Chul-Ho, H. & Sang-Hoon, C. (2007) A Study on the Development of Geological and Geomorphological Landscape Resources to Promote Tourism Geology: A Case Study in Taean Seashore National Park. *Journal of the Korean Earth Science Society*, 28, 1, 75-86.

- Crawford, K. & Róisín Black, R. (2007) Visitor understanding of the geodiversity and the geoconservation value of the Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site, Northern Ireland, unpublished paper to *ProGEO - WG3 meeting 2009 Geoheritage, Geodiversity & Nature and Landscape management 19 - 23 April 2009, Drenthe, The Netherlands*
- Hose, T.A., (1995a) Selling the Story of Britain's Stone. *Environmental Interpretation*, 10, 2, 16-17.
- Hose, T.A., (1995b) Evaluating Interpretation at Hunstanton. *Earth Heritage*, 4, 20.
- Hose, T.A., (1999) How Was It For You? - Matching Geologic Site Media To Audiences in Oliver, P.G. (ed.) *Proceedings of the First UK RIGS Conference*. Worcester: Worcester University College. pp.117-144.
- Hose, T.A. (2000a) Rocks, rudists and writings: an examination of populist geosite literature in Addison, K. (ed) *Proceedings of the third UKRIGS Annual Conference, Geoconservation in action*. Worksworth: UKRIGS. pp. 39-62.
- Hose, T.A., (2000b) 'European Geotourism - Geological Interpretation and Geoconservation Promotion for Tourists' in Barretino, D., Wimbledon, W.A.P. & Gallego, E. (eds.) *Geological Heritage: Its Conservation and Management*. Madrid: Sociedad Geologica de Espana/Instituto Tecnologico GeoMinero de Espana/ProGEO. pp.127-146.
- Hose, T.A., (2003) *Geotourism in England: A Two-Region Case Study Analysis*. unpublished PhD thesis in 2 vols; Birmingham: University of Birmingham.
- Hose T.A. (2005a) Writ in stone: a critique of geoconservation panels and publications in Wales and the Welsh Borders in Coulson, M.R. (ed.) *Stone in Wales: Materials, Heritage and Conservation, Papers from the Welsh Stone Conference, Cardiff 2002*. Cardiff: Cadw. pp.54-60.
- Hose T.A. (2005) Geo-tourism - appreciating the deep time of landscapes in Novelli, M. (ed.), *Niche Tourism: contemporary issues, trends and cases*. Oxford: Elsevier Science. pp.27-37.
- Lutz, G., Kiesel, J. & Dalchow, C. (2007) Landscape Visualization for Better Understanding and Interpretation Glacial Landscapes - Examples from Geopark "Eiszeitland amd Oderrand" in Röhling, H.G., Breitzkreuz, Ch., Th Duda, Th., Stackebrandt, W., Witkowski, A. & O. Uhlmann, O. (eds.) *Geo-Pomerania Szczecin 2007 Joint Meeting PTG-DGG: Geology cross-bordering the Western and Eastern European Platform*, 24.-26. September 2007, University of Szczecin, Poland Abstract-Volume. pp.177-179.
- Page, K. N., Keene, P., Edmonds, R. P. N. & Hose, T.A. (1996) *Earth Heritage Site Interpretation in England: A review of principle techniques with Case Studies, Research Report no 176*. Peterborough: English Nature.
- Poli, G. (2005) Le Cave Come Opportunita Di Valo

Corresponding author: Tom.Hose@bucks.ac.uk