

European Geoparks Week 2008
Report

Name of Geopark: **Copper Coast Geopark**.....
Dates of geoparks week: **May 25th – June 1st 2008**.....
Contact person: **Paula McCarthy/Sophie Preteseille**.....

1. Please give the following information:

- number of activities/events held in geoparks week 7...
- number of press releases announcing geoparks week events 6...
- number of printed copies for program flyer/brochure/posters 50..
- total number of visitors/participants 120.....

2. Describe the Geoparks Week 2008

Sunday 25th May, Radio Hams spread the Global Geopark message across the Radio stations from around the world, exchanged greetings over the airwaves with other Geoparks coordinated by the English Riviera Global Geopark in Devon, England. The Copper Coast Geopark took part in this event by inviting the local Amateur Radio club to transmit from Tankardstown. In very strong winds, high aerials were erected and connections were made. Throughout the day about 10 club members were on site battling the high wind, while about 50 (approx) visitors passed through the site.

26th May - 1st June, Geology Course

The course was aimed at a general audience with no specific background in geology, but a general interest in the topic. The course provided a general introduction to geology and the background to understand the geology of South East Ireland. 11 participants took part in the course, which consisted of 5 evening lectures and practicals from Monday to Friday in Knockmahon Primary School and week end fieldtrips to various locations along the Copper Coast to develop observation skills in the field and discover the local rocks.

Saturday 31st May, Bird watching on the Copper Coast

An enthusiastic group gathered at the crack of dawn to listen to birds in Fenor bog. Alan Walsh was at hand to help with identification. Unfortunately the fog was thick and heavy so visibility was limited but Alan was still able to capture the minds and imagination of the group by identifying the sounds of the birds. Alan also gave an in depth feel for the Bog as some plants and wild herbs were just about to blossom at the start of the day. Because of the fog we were able to see some of the spiders and bugs as there were a lot of webs across the bog. The dawn group finished with a warm picnic breakfast.

Saturday 31st May, The Mining Heritage of the Copper Coast.

About 15 people gathered to follow and listen to Bruce McDonald while exploring Tankardstown, the iconic ruins of engine houses on top of the Copper Coast cliffs. There they heard about the mining history of the area during its heyday when it was once one of the largest copper mines of the British Empire until it came to an end and most miners emigrated to Butte, Montana, USA.

Sunday 1st June, The Glacial Geology of the Comeragh Mountains

More than 35 people came to meet Willie Warren from the Geological Survey of Ireland and got an insight of the glacial geology of Coumshingaun.

Other event planned for EGN week included Kite demo and kite making for children. This event was to highlight the power of wind as natural energy, unfortunately the wind was too strong on this occasion and the event had to be cancelled.

Other events cancelled due to bad weather conditions were Sea kayaking and bike tours of the Copper Coast Geopark.

3. Photos:

