



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
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UNESCO  
Global  
Geoparks

# 2<sup>nd</sup> GGN DIGITAL FORUM

23-24 FEBRUARY 2021  
12:00 - 14:00 GMT



GLOBAL  
GEOPARKS  
NETWORK



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



English Riviera  
UNESCO  
Global Geopark

## Geopark In Focus

*English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark*

Melanie Border

ERUGGp

m.border@englishrivierageopark.or.uk

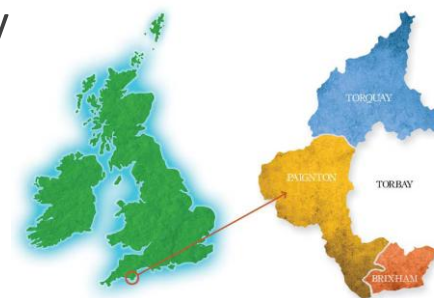
*More information about the best practice:*

[www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk](http://www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk)

# Geopark In Focus: Introduction/ Main targets



- **ERUGGp COVID FACT:** The Geopark territory is recognised by the Institute for Fiscal Studies to be in the top 2 most socially and economically impacted areas of the UK due to COVID.
- **ERUGGp COVID TRANSFORMATION PLAN - CORE PRIORITIES:**
  - Raise awareness of the offer and create COVID-safe information and support opportunities for engagement
  - Help to address the challenges of isolation and confinement for local people in the community
  - Fully integrate and support all partners to aid their organisational recovery
  - Address issues that are relevant both now due to COVID but also going forward, ensuring a sustainable approach to project development and outcomes



# Geopark In Focus: Implementation

- **Geopark In Focus Series** - Key element of ERUGGp COVID19 Transformation Plan
- **Aim** - to create an accessible and engaging resource with long term value
- **Series focus** - To cover different aspects of the Geopark's educational, scientific and cultural significance, with the aim to entertain and inform adult and student audiences, especially our older, more at risk and isolated members of the community, improving their knowledge of the Geopark, and ultimately encouraging visits to key local sites as social movement restrictions allow.
- **Utilise existing knowledge and expertise** - with renowned experts, senior academics and other personalities with expertise in various fields relevant to the global importance of the Geopark.
- **Minimal resources but big impact** - Used simple technology of Zoom. Supported by existing photos and film footage. Small amount of sponsorship covered editing process
- **Fantastic Project support** – Huge thanks to host Prof Iain Stewart and all interviewees who gave their time to support the project for free.



Geopark In Focus Host  
Geopark Patron, Professor Iain Stewart MBE

Supported by



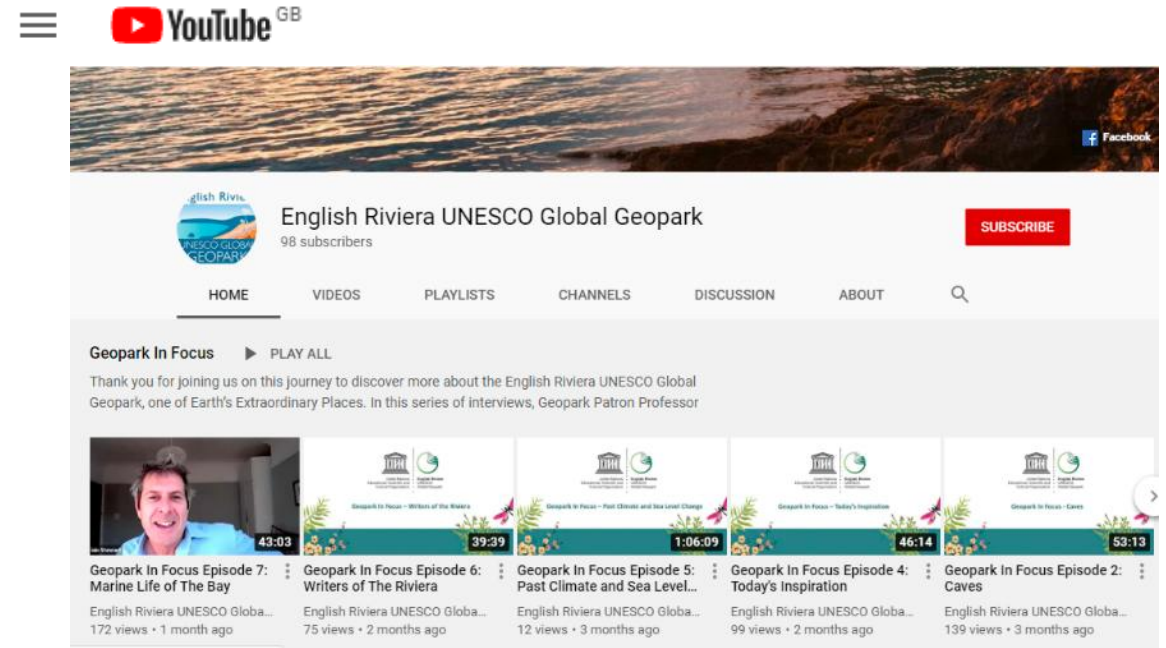
UNIVERSITY OF  
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Sustainable Earth Institute

# Geopark In Focus: Results achieved / Impact

- **Seven Episodes** - 1. Fossils and Deep Time  
2. Caves  
3. Early Humans  
4. Today's Inspiration  
5. Past Climate and Sea Level Change  
6. Writers on the Riviera  
7. Marine Life of the Bay

- **Launched on - UNESCO World Science Day**
- **Available via YouTube and multiple major Podcast providers**

- **Promoted by social media, local press and direct to hard to reach groups via Torbay Community Development Trust outreach workers**



2nd GGN Digital Forum | 24.02.2021



EPISODE	FEATURING	RELEASE DATE
1. FOSSILS AND DEEP TIME	In this first episode of Geopark In Focus, Prof. Iain Stewart talks with Mike Benton, Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology at University of Bristol, and Dr Kevin Page, geoscience and geodiversity specialist and Honorary Associate at the University of Exeter. They take us on a journey through deep time from when the Geopark was bathed in tropical seas south of the equator hundreds of millions of years ago, explaining what the rocks can tell us about Earth's history.	10/11/20
2. CAVES	Why are the caves of The English Riviera so internationally important? Prof. Iain Stewart is joined by Nick Powe, whose family have run Kents Cavern for five generations, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science Dr. Donald McFarlane of Claremont McKenna College California, who has published studies on Pengelly and Kents Cavern, and cave conservationist Tara Beacroft, discussing their shared passion for caves and how they help us to learn about Earth's heritage and the history of humanity.	17/11/20
3. EARLY HUMANS	In this episode Prof. Iain Stewart unravels the story of human history and explores how the human story is fundamentally evidenced in the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark. He is guided on this journey by leading experts in this field, Prof. Chris Stringer, Research Leader in Human Evolution at the Natural History Museum London, and Prof. Paul Pettitt who is Professor of Palaeolithic Archaeology at Durham University.	24/11/20
4. TODAY'S INSPIRATION	In this episode Prof. Iain Stewart explores how the extraordinary landscape and heritage of the Geopark area is inspiring creativity across a wide range of cultural practitioners including writers, poets, artists and composers. Featuring: Chrystine Jones, Geopark Ambassador Artist, Hugh Nankivell, Composer, songwriter and music leader who was Musical Director and Conductor for Earth Echoes, the opening ceremony for the 7th International Conference on Global Geoparks held in Torquay in 2016. Adam Neville, Author whose stories have been inspired by the local landscape and features. Becky Nuthall, Geopark Ambassador Artist, published poet and board member of Torbay Culture. Nathalie Palin, Creative Director for Torbay Culture's Great Place Scheme	01/12/20
5. PAST CLIMATE AND SEA LEVEL CHANGE	This week Prof. Iain Stewart is joined by Dr Jenny Bennett, who chairs the Geology section at the Devonshire Association, and Malcolm Hart, Emeritus Professor at the University of Plymouth and Chair of the Geoscientific committee of the Geopark, to explore how past climate and sea level change has left its mark on the Geopark area, the causes of these changes and implications for the future.	08/12/20
6. WRITERS OF THE RIVIERA	Prof. Iain Stewart and guests discuss the long history of authors who have been inspired by the English Riviera, from Charles Darwin, Oscar Wilde, Dame Agatha Christie and many more right up to the writers of today. They explore how literature and culture can be used to improve wellbeing and inclusion for members of the local community. Featuring: Heather Norman-Soderlind, who chairs the International Agatha Christie Festival and Literature Works, Dr. Kevin Dixon, local historian and member of the Torbay Culture board and Matt Newbury, a manager at Torre Abbey and author of popular Wild Swimming and walks books	15/12/20
7. MARINE LIFE OF THE BAY	In this final episode, Prof. Iain Stewart and guests head around the coast and underwater to explore the internationally protected marine environment of the Geopark. Here the geology has created a wealth of intricate coves, sea caves and quiet nooks and crannies for a huge diversity of life to thrive both above and below water from gannets to guillemots, seagrass to seahorses and seals to whales! The group also discuss how the community of the area recognise the incredible importance of this rich resource and how they come together to help care for it.	22/12/20

# Geopark In Focus: Lessons learnt / Future steps

- **Zoom** – Ensured creation was possible despite strict UK lockdown
- **Editing process** – Far more complex and time consuming to edit interviews to ensure conversation flows
- **Most popular format** - Video
- **Most watched episode** - Fossils and Deep Time
- **Current Promotion is organic** - Engagement would increase with paid promotion via the various platforms
- **Educational Tool** - Local college is already using Geopark In Focus as an educational tool for students
- **New Associate Partners** – Having seen the series two new local organisations are applying to become Geopark Associate partners
- **Clips** – useful awareness raising in their own right and can be repurposed i.e. International Year of Caves and Karst 21

 **WATCH Geopark In Focus [Here](#)** 





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Thank you for your attention