

ESEF Cymru

“Geotourism in Wales – by land and air”

by

Dr Peter Brabham (University of Cardiff)
Allan Cuthbertson (Neath and Port Talbot CBC)
Tony Ramsey (Director, Fforest Fawr Geopark)

5.00 pm – 7.30 pm, 2 May 2006
National Museum of Wales

Minutes - second meeting

1. Apologies for absence:
Apologies were received from a number of individuals, organisations and members of the Welsh Assembly, including Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM and Sue Essex AM who had hoped to introduce the meeting.
2. Chairman’s introduction:
Chairman welcomed the attendees, gave a summary of the ESEF Cymru launch and outlined the background to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences (Earth Sciences Group), which is administered by ESEF. The Earth Sciences Group meets each month in Westminster when the House is sitting and covers a wide range of Earth Science topics. A list of all meetings held can be seen on the www.esef.org.uk website.
3. Minutes of the ESEF Cymru meeting, 24 January 2006 were confirmed as a true record.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. Stakeholders’ discussion:
Collaborative projects and feedback from ESEF Cymru stakeholders, including key issues and concerns.

5.1 Welsh language

- Dr John Davies, Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the Welsh Building Stones Forum – suggesting setting up a Welsh language geological society. Although there are a number of Welsh language societies, these are generally for the arts rather than the sciences. There is also a need for a good working Welsh language dictionary of geology. JD had initiated a project, working with Dyfed Ellis Gruffudd. JD was also looking at geological education in Wales. The Eisteddford could be an event to showcase geology. The South Wales Geologists’ Association and the National Museum of Wales had attended in previous years (see annex 1).

- Professor Chris King, Earth Science Education Unit (ESEU) – noted that Dyfed Ellis Gruffudd had also been involved in the translation of the ESEU workshops into Welsh. These could be seen on the www.earthscienceeducation.co.uk website. The ESEU has facilitators in Wales, but would be keen to have a Welsh speaking facilitator.

5.2 Transco pipeline

- Professor Dianne Edwards, Head of Department, University of Cardiff – noted that in his speech at the ESEF Cymru launch, Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM had made reference to the Transco pipeline and a possible role for ESEF and the geological establishment. Construction of the pipeline will cross Wales and is a good opportunity to (make the most of) exposures. Quarternary geologists etc., experts on the ground, could benefit from having access to the exposures. It is also an opportunity to showcase varying geology across Wales.
- Allan Cuthberston, Neath and Port Talbot CBC - noted that mineral planning officers might be interested in being involved.
- John Davies, CCW – stated that CCW are involved and have a lead officer working with Transco, based in the Abergavenny office.
- John Davies – replied that borehole information was already available and that the discussion of the route north of the Brecon Beacons was underway.
- Peter Tyldesley, Head of Countryside, Brecon Beacons National Park - noted that the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and landowners north of Brecon had been involved in route discussions. Information is available on the www.breconbeacons.org website. The first stage of compulsory purchase has already been triggered, though it may take many months for the DTI to complete.
- Councillor David Lewis, Neath and Port Talbot CBC – noted that work has already started on the branch line from Ashgowen to the main line of the pipeline and that people were on site.
- Professor Dianne Edwards – stressed that this is an ideal opportunity to see the exposures
- Professor Allan Rogers, Chair ESEF – invited DE to convene a meeting to (look at) the points raised regarding the pipeline.
- Professor Chris King, ESEU – pointed out that it would be an ideal opportunity to get to visit schools along the route of the pipeline and become involved in their local geology and raise awareness.
- Jane Davies, Brecon Beacons National Park – said that Transco have offered to put in viewing platforms to see exposed ecology and morphology and these could also be used to explain the geology.

- Les Vile, Hanson (South West and South Wales) – stated that they have no involvement with the pipeline, but that Daniels? were involved. LV could provide contact names and details, and was sure that they would be keen to help.
- Mr John Harrison, Environment Agency Wales – have a lead officer looking at interest along the pipeline.
- ***Action: Professor Diane Edwards and John Davies agreed to put forward a proposal / brief framework with John Harrison, Allan Cuthbertson and others as appropriate.***

5.3 Mining museums

- Dr Peter Brabham, University of Cardiff – suggested that a topic for a future ESEF Cymru meeting could involve Welsh mining museums. Many children visit mining museums throughout Wales, but often the geological and mineralogical information is patchy.

5.4 Geoparks celebrations

- Peter Tydesley, invited ESEF stakeholders to join in the week of Geoparks celebrations beginning on 27th May. Further details on the www.breaconbeacons.org website.

6. Future programme

- Tuesday 11th July, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. The topic is ‘the outdoor classroom’.
- Tuesday 7th November. Title and venue to be confirmed.
- Tuesday 12th December. The geology of Welsh wine. Venue to be confirmed
- Tuesday 13th March 2007. Geoconservation / geodiversity. North Wales venue to be confirmed.

7. Resources

8. AOB

9. Date of next meeting – 11th July, 5.00 – 7.30pm National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Cally Oldershaw
17 May 2006

Dyfed Ellis Gruffudd and myself are shortly to form a geological group for the promotion of the science to Welsh-speakers. As I outlined, the general interests of Welsh speakers are concerned with music, literature and the spoken word. If non-Welsh speakers are not aware of the excitement of studying geology and its importance to all our lives, the situation amongst Welsh speakers is much worse.

As part of the evangelism needed to change the situation, Dyfed Ellis Gruffudd has been in process of compiling a Welsh Geological dictionary [not a glossary], which gives a full explanation of the meaning of Welsh Geological terms in the Welsh language. The joint aims of this are to reduce the instances of miss-translation of English geological terms, and to encourage the use of the correct terms for geological phenomena by those involved in its study.

Because of the stated aims of the ESEF to promote geology in education, it would be completely natural for this to be continued in both languages and for ESEF to encourage the promotion of the study of geology in both of the natural languages of Wales.

Additionally, the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, National Museum of Wales, Countryside Council For Wales, National Parks, Environmental Agency, and many other bodies in Wales operate a bilingual policy, and as far as is possible we in the Welsh Stones Forum, also communicate in both languages. It would thus be significant for ESEF to use both languages as much as possible in its correspondence, exhibition and publications.

John Davies
From email to Cally Oldershaw 8 May 2006