



## Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales) Minutes of the forty-first meeting

Held in the British Geological Survey meeting room, Natural History Museum, Exhibition Road, London. 2.00pm, 18 October 2011

**Present:** Chris King, Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit)  
David Bailey (British Geological Survey)  
David Brook (London Geodiversity Partnership)  
Susan Brown (Geologists' Association and Rockwatch)  
Tom Hose (GeoConservationUK)

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Diane Aston (IOM3), Steve Brace (RGS), Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts), Nikki Edwards (OCR), Grace Kimble (NHM), Jacqui Malpas (Clwydian Range AONB), Cally Oldershaw, Paul Smith (CHUGD Committee of Heads of University Geoscience Departments), Peter Warren, Niki Whitburn (Geographical Association).

### 2 Minutes of the 40th meeting, 17 May 2011

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. A copy will be placed on the ESEF website.

**Action: David Bailey**

### 3 Matters arising

- 3.1 [*Agenda item 3.4*] *Geology teacher training*. C King reported that Keele University was seeking to become a centre of excellence for geology and earth science teaching. The TDA had committed to ensure specialist geology teacher training would continue. According to the plan geography and scientist teachers would be funded by several organisations, including PESGB and Oil & Gas UK, to train as specialist geology teachers through summer schools. TH said the Society of Biology had also made representations to the TDA for funding to support biology teaching.
- 3.2 [*Agenda item 3.9*] *Geoscience in adult education discussion*. Discussion of Chris Darmon's proposal was deferred to Agenda Item 4.
- 3.3 [*Agenda item 8*] *Natural England Corporate Plan*. Actions carried out. TH reported that GeoConservationUK had been active in sending out letters to various bodies. SB added that the President of the Geologists' Association had also written to Natural England (NE). TH said that NE had subsequently closed applications for all new grants. SB said that the GA's Curry Fund had received an increased number of bids for large grants in the past 18 months in response to cuts elsewhere.

### 4 National Geology Database

- 4.1 CK presented the estimate of costs from Chris Darmon. The initial costs were estimated to be ca £5k. CK asked members if they approved of the proposal and whether the Forum would be prepared to help secure funds.
- 4.2 TH suggested that GCUK might be prepared to host the database as part of their website or provide sponsorship. He would raise the question at the upcoming meeting. The site would need prominent badging for any sponsors. The issue of editorial control over content would need to

be resolved. CK suggested that if the database went forward, it would need a steering committee.

- 4.3 Members were not clear what the ongoing costs of maintaining the site would be. It was AGREED (i) that ESEF would be willing to publicise the project to members with the hope that they would provide funding or help; (ii) the project brief needs to clearly include a steering committee to drive content that is representative of the supporting groups.

**Action: CK to write to C Darmon**

## **5 Finance report**

No significant change to financial position.

## **6 ESEF website ([www.esef.org.uk](http://www.esef.org.uk))**

There had been no additions to the content apart from the minutes of recent meetings.

## **7 All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth and Environmental Sciences update**

Nothing to report.

## **8 Potential collaborative projects**

DB reported that the OU bid for JISC funding to support the Virtual Microscope had been successful. The project was scheduled to begin on 1 November 2011.

## **9 AOB**

- 9.1 SB reported that a revision of the Geologists' Association's Code of Conduct on coring was nearly complete but there was a need to consult with CHUGD. The existing version dates from 1989. Also that the GA would be holding their annual Festival of Geology at UCL on 5 November.
- 9.2 TH drew attention to an International Conference on Geotourism called Appreciating Physical Landscape 1670-1970. The call for papers had been extended to 11 March 2012. He also reported on an interesting meeting at the Geological Society on Poetry and Geology.
- 9.3 CK said that the National Curriculum was under review and the latest draft has no earth science element. The issue had been raised with the DfE. A proposed meeting at the Royal Society to discuss various aspects of science in the curriculum had to be cancelled as there had not been as much progress on the review as expected. However, the Royal Society had held a special meeting to consider earth science alone. There was good support for earth science from the professional societies representing other sciences as well as from the Royal Society and Geological Society. It is expected that a formal consultation on the curriculum will take place in February 2012.
- 9.4 CK reported that Chris Carlon would be the next President of ESTA.
- 9.5 DB reported on the environmental science competition sponsored by UK Skills as a demonstration event at the recent World Skills competition held in London (5-8 October 2011). The competition involved devising a sustainable energy policy for a fictitious island and required an understanding of a variety of scientific and engineering principles, including an appreciation of earth resources. It was intended to hold a UK competition in 2012 with a view to participating fully in the next World Skills event to be held in Leipzig in 2013.

## **10 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be

6 Dec 2011    Nikki Edwards to convene a discussion on Adult Education

March 2012 D Bailey to convene discussion on new technologies and social media in communicating geoscience.

**Action: N Edwards, D Bailey**

Chris King thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

**Agreed actions:**

Agenda Item	Subject	Owner	Due date
37/6	All Party alterations to be communicated to D Bailey for Web update.	C Oldershaw	December 2010 meeting
38/6	All Party update of new arrangements	J Wright	Next meeting
40/3.2	D Bailey to add David Lambert to future meetings	D Bailey	ASAP
41/2	Minutes of 40th meeting to be uploaded	D Bailey	ASAP
41/4.3	C King to write to C Darmon for clarification of maintenance costs of National Geology Database	C King	Next meeting
41/10	N Edwards to convene discussion for 42nd meeting (Dec) on Adult Education	N Edwards	Dec 2011
	D Bailey to convene discussion for 43rd meeting (Mar) on New Technologies and Social Media	D Bailey	Mar 2012

**Presentation**

**Geotourism**

**by Tom Hose**

A copy of the presentation will be circulated to Forum members.

CK thanked TH for a comprehensive and wide-ranging presentation.