



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

Held in the Arthur Holmes meeting room, The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. 1.30pm, 15 October 2013.

Present: Chris King, Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit)
David Bailey (British Geological Survey)
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts)
David Brook (London Geodiversity Partnership)
Susan Brown (Geologists' Association and Rockwatch)
Nikki Edwards (OCR)
Duncan Hawley (Geographical Association)
Tom Hose (GeoConservationUK & University of Bristol)
Joanna Mears (GSL)
Cally Oldershaw (from 15.00)
Hannah Pritchard (NHM Learning Team/Real World Science)
Annette Shelford (NHM Learning Team/Real World Science)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Diane Aston (IOM3), Nic Bilham (GSL), Steve Brace (RGS & IBG), Sylvia Knight (RMetS), Pete Loader (ESTA), Isabel Markham (U3A), Allan Rogers, and Peter Warren.

2 Minutes of the 47th meeting, 14 May 2013

The minutes of the 47th meeting were accepted as a true record. A copy will be placed on the ESEF website. **Action: D Bailey**

3 Matters arising

- 3.1 *[Agenda item 3.1] National Curriculum consultation (KS4):* CK advised that there was still no announcement of a formal consultation on the proposed changes to the KS4 curriculum and that the current draft contained no plate tectonic theory.
- 3.2 *[Agenda item 3.2] National Curriculum consultation (KS3):* The disappointment expressed over earlier drafts of the Science curriculum at KS3 had been greatly alleviated as most of the proposals put forward by the earth science community had been adopted. The response to the proposals by the Geological Society had been published in full in the GeoConservation UK newsletter and had been well received by its membership. JM reported that the Geological Society had had useful discussions with the Department for Education.
- 3.3 *[Agenda item 3.4] Publication of links to responses to National Curriculum consultation:* Links to the responses by various interested parties had been published via Facebook.
- 3.4 *[Agenda items 3.6] Training for secondary geology teachers:* CK reported that, in July, Keele University had been allocated six places for Geology Teacher training. This was very late notice, but they had managed to recruit four trainees and National College for Teaching and Leadership would be funding training for the foreseeable future. Keele were planning to run summer schools from 19 July 2014 with 12 bursaried places for geology and geography graduates. These were aimed at a different cohort to the GSL Academy and the dates would not overlap.

- 3.5 CK added that it was no longer possible to offer training in geology teaching on a no-cost basis as part of the Science Knowledge Enhancement at Keele University as this programme no longer existed. However, following complaints from the student body at Keele, a fully funded course had been reinstated.
- 3.6 *[Agenda items 3.9] Geology for Non-Geologists training:* NE reported that she hoped to discuss an 'Introduction to Geology for Non-Geologists' training course soon with Hayden Bailey, President of the Geologists' Association. This was likely to be a one- or two-day course, possibly free of charge. It was suggested this course could be offered to members of the public and non-geologist staff in geological organisations such as BGS and Wildlife Trusts. It was also suggested that links could be established with local museums and their collections utilised. JM noted that Pete Loader had provided a similar course for non-geological staff at the GSL and suggested that it might be possible to link this up with the GA initiative. Regional Groups of the GSL might also be interested in hosting training.
- 3.7 CK suggested that NE report to the Geologists' Association that the GSL has a package and there may be interest from several other organisations in a 'branded' training package. DH said that a scoping study needed to be done to explain the benefits and identify target audiences. There may be a need for more than one course, e.g. training for the general public and training for professionals working in planning, government agencies etc. CK asked NE to table a proposal on training for non-geologists for discussion at the next meeting of the Forum. **Action: N Edwards**
- 3.8 *[Agenda items 3.10] Geology AS and A2 entries:* NE advised that entries for Geology were up to about 4000 at AS and 2000 at A2 nationally (OCR and WJEC combined).
- 3.9 *[Agenda items 3.11] Admission requirements for university geology courses:* DH suggested the Forum should ask universities whether there was any academic difference between candidates with A-level Geology and those without. SB asked whether anyone had conducted a survey of the career paths post-university of graduates who had taken A-level Geology and those who had not. AS noted that Cambridge University might be unusual in that students took the Natural Science Tripos in their first year, and also because their students tended to have taken more A-level subjects than the average. JM said that SESEF had looked into this issue in defence of the Geology Higher. CK pointed out that the Forum could not take this much further, but that ESTA Council might be asked if a survey could be undertaken along the lines DH had suggested. **Action: D Bailey / C King to raise with ESTA Council**
- 3.10 *[Agenda item 3.13] National Geology Database:* TH and D Bailey had not been able to meet. However, GeoConservation UK was going through change and was unlikely to be able to support any funding. It was suggested that for the time being the best way forward was to develop the BGS's GeoBritain map. D Bailey would ask John Stevenson at BGS to take this forward. TH noted that an MOU between GeoConservation UK and BGS was being drafted and suggested a comment about the database should be inserted. **Action: T Hose / D Bailey**
- 3.11 *[Agenda item 3.14] International Conference on Geotourism 22/23 October 2012:* TH reported that the Conference book was still in production.
- 3.12 *[Agenda item 3.16] 'Bus Pass Geology':* TH said that the railway and cycling trail guides he had offered to send IM had proved too large to email and would have to be posted. **Action: D Bailey**
- 3.13 *[Agenda item 7.1] Earth Science Week:* JM reported that Earth Science Week had been very successful. There had been several geological walks in London, SW England and Manchester; an article about kerbstone markings in *Geoscientist* magazine; lots of photographs submitted by people participating in the geological walks; most of the affiliated schools had joined in. CK asked JM if she could write a page about the week for the ESTA journal, *Teaching Earth Sciences*. DH said he was keen to publicise it via the Geographical Association magazine. **Action: J Mears**

- 3.14 *[Agenda item 7.3] BGS Open Day:* D Bailey said that the Open Day had been successful and attracted over 1500 visitors. Iain Stewart had given a public lecture which had helped boost numbers.
- 3.15 *[Agenda item 7.4] Geological poster map of the British Isles:* D Bailey reported that the ESTA secondary workshop in May had provided a great deal of really constructive feedback. The BGS publications manager responsible for the map was delighted to have so much useful information to define the brief. The proposal to revise the map had now been accepted and design work was expected to start soon.

4 Finance report

No significant changes to report.

5 ESEF website (www.esef.org.uk)

Nothing to report. D Bailey would discuss continuing maintenance post March 2014 with John Stevenson.

6 All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth and Environmental Sciences update

CO reported that the planned meeting had been cancelled as the intended speakers had not been available. It was hoped that a meeting would be held in March.

7 Potential collaborative projects

No projects to report.

8 AOB

- 8.1 D Brook reported that Sophie Crosby, the Chair of a Regional Group, was carrying out public engagement at festivals and hoping to obtain a place at Womad. Further details could be provided.
- 8.2 TH said that he had proposed a workshop with GeoConservation UK on geotourism, geo-education and mineral exploitation. The World Heritage Organisation would not presently register sites where mineral exploitation was a possibility (e.g. the Cornish geopark).
- 8.3 TH noted that the membership of the Geological Curators' Group was declining because of a lack of new members entering the profession. The voluntary sector was increasingly taking over the functions formerly carried out by salaried curators. Unique collections were at risk because of a lack of properly trained staff to care for geological materials. Travelling curators may be the only solution. CK asked if a member of the GCG could address the Forum's meeting in October 2014. **Action: T Hose**
- 8.4 DH said that the Geological Society archivist, Caroline Lamb, had requested copies of the minutes of previous meetings. It was agreed that these would be forwarded. **Action: D Bailey**
- 8.5 CK reminded Forum members that the Geologists' Association Festival of Geology would be held at UCL on 2 November.

9 Dates of future meetings

- 3 December 2013 David Bailey to speak on 'Education and the BGS'
- 4 March 2014 Hayden Bailey, President Designate of the Geologists' Association to speak on links between education and industry (**NE to confirm**)
- 13 May 2014 Dr Anjana K Ford, Jurassic Coast Team, to speak on 'The Big Jurassic Classroom gets Creative with Earth Science'
- 14 October 2014 Geological Curators' Group (tbc)

The business meeting closed at 3.00pm. M Bradley left the meeting.

There followed a presentation by **Duncan Hawley**, Geographical Association, on **‘The state of physical geography in schools and the role of the Geographical Association’**

The meeting closed at 4.45pm.