



## Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales) Minutes of the 50th meeting

Held in the Natural History Museum, London. 1.30pm, 4 March 2014.

### **Present:**

Chris King, Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit)  
Annette Shelford (NHM Learning Team/Real World Science)  
Pete Loader (ESTA)  
Tom Hose (GeoConservationUK & University of Bristol)  
David Brook (London Geodiversity Partnership)  
Andy Lee (Programme Manager for Real World Science, NHM)  
David Bailey (British Geological Survey)  
John Stevenson (British Geological Survey)  
Isabel Markham (U3A)  
Susan Brown (Geologists' Association and Rockwatch)  
Nikki Edwards (Oxford and Cambridge RSA - OCR)  
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts)  
Zoe Adams (Research Assistant, NHM)  
Sally Collins (Formal Learning Programme Developer, NHM)

### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from: Diane Aston (IOM3), Nic Bilham (GSL), Steve Brace (RGS & IBG), Cynthia Burek, Anjana Ford (Jurassic Coast), Hazel Gibson (Plymouth University), Duncan Hawley (Geographical Association), Jacqui Malpas, Cally Oldershaw, Hazel Rymer (OU), Joanna Mears (GSL), Hannah Pritchard (NHM Learning Team/Real World Science), Maggie Williams, Joanna Ford, Peter Warren and Matthew Shepherd (Natural England).

Jacqui Malpas has emigrated to New Zealand and has formally withdrawn from ESEF.

### **2 Minutes of the 49th meeting, 3 December 2013**

The minutes of the 49th meeting were accepted as a true record. A copy will be placed on the ESEF website.

**Action: JS**

### **3 Matters arising**

3.1 *National Curriculum (KS3 & 4)* Nikki Edwards was pleased to report that the lobbying for the reinstatement of the rock cycle in the KS 3 curriculum had been successful; the structure of the Earth and composition of the Earth had been also been reintroduced into the KS3 curriculum.

The outcomes for KS 4 curriculum changes had not been finalised, but plate tectonics was most likely to be excluded and the overall outcome for earth science in the new curriculum was likely to be unfavourable.

Suggestions of writing a letter to Michael Gove in advance of the KS4 outcome were discussed. The consultation exercise should have gone ahead in Sept 2013. CK reported that Nick Bilham may have discussed the issue with the DfE in the last two weeks.

3.2 *Training for secondary geology teachers:* CK reported that doubts have been cast over whether the year-long science/geology PGCE course will run at Keele for 2014/15; all of the three applications that had been received had been withdrawn due to a zero-bursary award for geology teacher training (when other science subjects and geography do receive bursaries).

3.3 *Geology for Non-Geologists training 'Geolab':* NE asked the group to discuss and offer ideas regarding the non-geologists one-day courses for adults. The workshop-style training would be offered to adults at a £5-10 fee.

The ESEF discussed offering Geolab bespoke courses that focused on the geology local to the training venue; linking in local industry e.g. brick-making to clay, and relating it to geology in the home. Geolab morning sessions should cover rock forming/types basics pitched at a low level, including talks and hands-on activities. Afternoon sessions should be fieldwork, focusing on local geology. Microscopes were also discussed, but the group felt that low cost equipment should be sought out.

**Action:** NE will develop the above comments and pass them to the Geologists' Association.

3.4 *Destination survey for A-level Geology students:* CK reported that 14 responses from the survey had been received so far, which indicated that 43 per cent of students that studied geology at A level went on to study geoscience at university.

3.5 *National Geology Database:* JS reported that the BGS were beta testing a web form that would allow BGS website users to submit events and other geo-activities to populate the BGS GeoBritain map. The system would require manual intervention by BGS staff and as a result event submissions would not be instant. TH offered to publicise the service in the May edition of GCUK.

**Action:** JS to circulate the GeoBritain page to the ESEF for further comment and testing.

3.6 *MOU between GeoConservation UK and BGS:* No further progress was reported since the 49th meeting of the ESEF.

3.7 *International Conference on Geotourism 22/23 October 2012.* TH reported good progress; 13/15 chapters were out for review and on schedule to go to the Geol Soc. in July.

3.8 *'Bus Pass Geology':* TH reported that Bus Pass geology was delayed due to a series of hardware and software failures with THs personal computing equipment.

3.9 *Earth Science Week:*

**AS to carry out the action** from the 49th ESEF meeting to resend the text to TH for the GCUK newsletter as this seemed to have gone astray; copy to CK and PL

3.10 *Geological poster map of the British Isles:* DB reported that the map had received feedback to tweak it for teaching physical geology from the GA and ESTA. The printing schedule at BGS had been delayed due to staff resource issues and that printing was likely by Spring 2015. Duncan Hawley is due to present a draft map at the Geographical Association meeting in Easter 2014. DB also reported that the BGS may offer a 'light paper' version as a giveaway for schools and universities, plus offer supporting teaching resources from the BGS website.

- 3.11 *Public engagement Geo-Fun initiative announcement*: closed  
3.12 Geological Curators' Group talk for the October 2014 ESEF meeting.  
**Action TH** to confirm the speaker

#### **4 Finance report**

No significant changes to report.

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

The minutes had been added to the Meetings page.

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

There was no news concerning the activities of the All-Party Group; CO not present at the meeting to provide further comment.

#### **7 Potential collaborative projects**

*U3A*: IM reported that the established U3A groups have flourished and gave the examples of Norfolk and Crewkerne; the membership of U3A Crewkerne geology group is around 40.

#### **8. AOB**

*BGS iGeology*: AS asked DB whether there were any plans to offer a simplified version of iGeology as a teaching resource. DB reported that iGeology had recently been modified so map queries were written in plain language that were now easier to understand, when compared to the previous BGS Lexicon descriptions.

**Action: CK and PL** to develop a questionnaire to quantify the use of iGeology in schools. This questionnaire could incorporate a user requirement for iGeology 3D on the Apple OS; iGeology 3D is currently Android only.

**ESEF membership**: CK commented that anyone with an interest in ESEF business was welcome to join the ESEF and attend meetings.

**Action: JS** to promote visibility of ESEF website.

#### **9 Dates of future meetings**

- 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 (TH to confirm)

The business meeting closed at around 3.00pm.

Nikki Edwards gave an update on the proposed GA Geolab project. Comment at item 3.3.

4.00 p.m. Short presentation by Sally Collins, Senior Learning Programme Developer at NHM, on the "Rocks the House" schools science show

4.15 – 4.35 p.m. Short tour of newly refurbished Volcanoes and Earthquakes gallery with Alex Fairhead, Interpretation Developer at the NHM

The NHM gallery tour closed at about 5.15 pm.