



Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales) Minutes of the 51st meeting

Held in the Arthur Holmes Room, Geological Society, London. 1.30pm, 13 May 2014.

Present:

Anjana Ford (Jurassic Coast)
Cally Oldershaw (All-Party Group for Earth and Environmental Sciences)
Chris King (Earth Science Education Unit)
David Brook (London Geodiversity Partnership)
Isobel Markham (U3A)*
Hannah Pritchard (RWS, NHM)
John Stevenson (BGS)
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts/U3A)
Nikki Edwards (Geo-East)
Peter Warren (Natural England)
Susan Brown (Rockwatch)
Tom Hose (GeoConservationUK & University of Bristol)

*Isabel Markham – announced that she is to step-down from representing the U3A for geology and that Martyn Bradley would take over her role.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Alan Holiday
Andy Lee (NHM)
Annette Shelford (NHM Learning Team/Real World Science)
Annette Thomas
David Bailey (Geologist and science communicator)
Duncan Hawley (Geographical Association)
Hazel Rymer (Open University)
Joanna Mears (GSL)
Maggie Williams (Liverpool Uni.)
Martin Whiteley
Nic Bilham (GSL)
Pete Loader (ESTA)
Steve Brace (RGS & IBG)
Peter Warren (Natural England)

2 Minutes of the 50th meeting, 4 March 2014

The minutes of the 50th meeting were accepted as a true record. A copy has been placed on the ESEF website.

Action: JS

3 Matters arising

3.1 *National Curriculum (KS3 & 4)*

The KS 4 National Curriculum is currently in draft, waiting for the result of formal consultation; plate tectonics has not been included in the draft. The ESEF have written to various politicians, including Michael Gove. The reply from Gove stated that 'we assume that it [plate tectonics] will be taught...' The new National Curriculum is due to be published on 14 September 2014. CK summarised the changes as below:

- KS2 Slightly better than before
- KS3 A bit better
- KS4 No real geology

3.2 *Training for secondary geology teachers:*

Geoscience Education Summer School, Keele, 19-25 July 2014: CK reported that nine applications had been received.

Geoscience Education Academy 2014: Geol Soc. 24-27 July had received many applications (later reported that the course was now full).

3.3 *Geology for Non-Geologists training 'Geolab':*

Nothing to report

3.4 *Destination survey for A-level Geology students:*

Nothing to report

3.5 *National Geology Database:*

JS reported that the website form for the GeoBritain map had been completed and was live on the BGS website. Website users can now submit their own 'events' that will be displayed on the map within 1-2 working days.

The ESEF thanked JS for his efficiency in completing this task.

JS was also asked to submit 200-250 words to describe the GeoBritain map to be included in the next GeoConservation UK Newsletter; deadline 12 June. It was also suggested that the GeoBritain map should be hyperlinked from the BGS home page, the Geol Soc Events page. JS to further promote the map by blogging on the BGS site GeoBlogy.

Action: JS

3.6 *MOU between GeoConservation UK and BGS:*

The MOU is due to be signed off imminently. The benefits to both parties include:

- Discounts of publications
- Sharing of databases

3.7 *International Conference on Geotourism 22/23 October 2012.*

TH reported that there are two chapters that are being held up; one chapter is likely to be rejected and the other TH needs to submit. Progress was reported as good at about 60 per cent complete.

3.8 *'Bus Pass Geology':*

No further progress to report. Once complete the pdf map/guides will be made available as downloads from U3A websites.

3.9 *Earth Science Week:*

ESW runs from 13-19 October. This year's theme is 'Our Geoheritage'. The Geological Society is 'calling for ideas' on their website. www.geolsoc.org.uk

3.10 *Geological poster map of the British Isles:*

A proof of the poster map was 'presented' at the Geographical Association Conference, April 2014; feedback has been passed to the production team at BGS to consider.

Action JS: was asked to consider whether BGS would be able to provide GIS files to complement the poster maps and would BGS generate some teachers' notes.

3.11 *Public engagement Geo-Fun initiative announcement: closed*

3.12 *Geological Curators' Group talk for the October 2014 ESEF meeting.*

Giles Miller (GCG Chair) is confirmed as the guest speaker.

4 Finance report

No change since the 50th meeting.

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

The group discussed the ESEF website and agreed that it was in need of updating. It was suggested that we add a news section to the website that noted ESEFs major achievements. Achievements should be added as a standing item for future ESEF meeting agendas.

Action ALL: Send JS two sentences, plus web address and contact details, about the organisation that you represent by 1 August 2014.

Action CK: to send a letter to Allan Rogers about his role as ESEF Chair and an update on the activities of ESEF Cymru.

Action JS: JS to produce ESEF website traffic statistics for June 2013 to May 2014.

Action CO: to review the All-Party Group website and send updates to JS.

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

CO reported that the next All Party Group Meeting was on 13 May; Andy Howard (BGS) and Mike Young (GSNI) were guest speakers.

7 Potential collaborative projects

Nothing to report

8. AOB

Duncan Hawley (who could not attend the meeting) circulated details of some new support materials to help geography teachers improve their understanding of physical geography requirements in the National Curriculum; 'What's the Big Idea? – Physical Geography

'Essential' Knowledge and Key ideas: suggestions of concepts to tackle by the GA Physical Geography SIG' will be launched on the Geographical Association website in the next few weeks to help teachers in their planning/upgrade of physical geography.

9 Dates of future meetings

14 October 2014	Geological Curators' Group – Giles Miller (GCG Chair)
2 December 2014	Building Stones (TBC)
3 March 2015	William Smith (TBC)
12 May 2015	Geologists' Association (TBC)