



## **Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)**

### **Minutes of the 53rd meeting**

Held in the William Buckland Room, Geological Society, London. 1.30pm, 2 December 2014.

#### **Present:**

Annette Shelford (NHM Learning Team/Real World Science)  
Chris King (Earth Science Education Unit)  
David Brook (London Geodiversity Partnership)  
Diana Clements (GA)  
John Stevenson (BGS)  
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts)  
Nikki Edwards (Oxford and Cambridge RSA - OCR)  
Pete Loader (ESTA)  
Ruth Siddall (UCL)  
Susan Brown (Rockwatch)  
Tom Hose (GCUK)

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Anjana Ford (Jurassic Coast)  
Annette Thomas  
Cally Oldershaw (All-Party Group for Earth and Environmental Sciences)  
David Bailey (Geologist and science communicator)  
Isabel Markham  
Lesley Dunlop (English Geodiversity Forum)  
Lorraine Craig (Imperial College London)  
Maggie Williams (Liverpool Uni.)  
Martin Whiteley (Derby Uni.)  
Nic Bilham (GSL)  
Peter Warren (Natural England)  
Roger Trend

#### **2 Minutes of the 52nd meeting, 14 October 2014**

The minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> 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)**

No changes were reported.

#### **3.2 Training for secondary geology teachers:**

**CK** reported that the Geoscience Education week-long Summer School at Keele Uni. is planned to go ahead from July 18<sup>th</sup> 2015.

#### **Geology teacher training through PGCE courses:**

Representing ESTA, Chris King and Pete Loader met with National College for Teaching and Learning (NCTL) in November 2014 and agreed that six bursaries could be bid for for training secondary school geology teachers. The NCTL also suggested that using such bursaried training opportunities Keele University could continue its role working with the local school-based ITT (SCITT) programme (OAKS) as the national hub for teaching training in geology. The funding for this training would be available for the academic year 2016-17.

**Geoscience Education Academy** has been scheduled to run again in July 2015 and has already been advertised.

A and AS level geology were briefly discussed; AS geology was seen as a useful option that offers students options to leave a two-year A level course after one year with a qualification. Or for some students, who weren't too sure about geology as an option, could initially opt for an AS level and continue on to the full A level if they were suitably inspired after their first year.

#### **Earth Science Education Unit 'Geology workshops'**

It was reported that the ESEU would be running workshops to train secondary geography teachers in teaching the Earth science components of their new curriculum from January 2015.

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

Nikki Edwards reported that several organisations have expressed an interest in hosting a Geolab event for 2015, but the Geologists' Association need facilitators to present talks to local groups. The first Geolab event, aimed at creating a better awareness of geology to non-geologists, is planned for May 2015 in the south of England, possibly Brighton. If successful the Geolab model could be rolled out nationally.

**Action NE** CK requested that the ESEF would like to see a written evaluation of Geolab after the first event.

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

Nothing further to report, although Pete Loader demonstrated ESTA's online map of the UK's '[Schools and Colleges teaching GCSE and A2 Geology](#)' which the Forum agreed was a very useful resource.

#### **3.5 National Geology Database:**

Diana Clements reported that she has been trying to collate Geologists' Association 'geotrail guides' with some success but was finding it a slow process. Many of the guides weren't held

centrally but held by local regional groups and noting accurate ‘trail start’ information was very time consuming. Many of the free GA guides will eventually be offered as pdf downloads on the GA website as lists, or interactive map, with links to paid-for guides directing users to the GA online shop. Although the GA has produced lots of ‘geotrail guides’ the proposed GA map does not yet have much content to show on it. In the meantime, JS suggested that links to the free and paid-for GA guides could also be included on the BGS GeoBritain map, Diana Clements agreed that this proposal would be acceptable to the GA.  
**Action: JS** JS to add these links to the GeoBritain map

3.6 *MOU between GeoConservation UK and BGS:*  
The MOU was signed off in September 2014.

3.7 *International Conference on Geotourism 22/23 October 2012.*  
Publication likely c. October 2015.

3.8 *‘Bus Pass Geology’:*  
Isabel Markham was not present to provide an update

3.9 *Earth Science Week (ESW):*  
The Forum briefly discussed walks that the London Geodiversity Partnership hoped to run during ESW 2015, including the [Green Chain Walk Geotrail](#), which is a geology trail along an established [Green Chain Walk](#).

3.10 *Geological poster map of the British Isles:*  
No further progress to report; the latest update on the map can be found in the minutes of the [52nd ESEF meeting](#).

3.11 *Future talks*  
Cherry Lewis, Bristol Uni HoG, was confirmed as the guest speaker for the 54<sup>th</sup> ESEF meeting in March 2015; provisional title ‘William Smith Bicentenary’

3.12 *What are the benefits of growing ‘British’ geologists?*  
Not discussed; carried over for an Agenda item for the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**4 Finance report**  
No change since the 52nd meeting.

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

**JS reported** that the website was up to date.

**6 All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth and Environmental Sciences update**  
The Group will not meet again until after the May 2015 general election.

**7 Potential collaborative projects**

JS reported that the BGS-Nottingham City of Caves collaboration is likely to be scaled down as the offer of vacant shop space, earmarked for an education centre, had since been withdrawn.

JS reported that the BGS School Seismology project were just about to lead the Mars Monitor project; a collaboration between the British Geological Survey, the National Space Academy

and Leicester University, with additional expert advice provided by Imperial College and Bristol university as required. The project will develop a set of educational activities for secondary school students which will be written up into a resource booklet and published online. These educational resources will be delivered to teachers through a series of workshop activities taking place at the Leicester National Space Centre and around the country. The Project will culminate in a one day science competition/careers fair for students to be hosted at the National Space Centre.

## 8 ESEF Achievements

The production of the BGS [GeoBritain Map](#) was produced as a direct result of ESEF discussions. The ESEF would like to pass on thanks to David Bailey (ex-BGS) and John Stevenson (BGS) for their efforts in producing the map, which includes information about geological groups, museums and geological trails across the UK.

## 9 AOB

**Action: Susan Brown** to contact Chris Green about being the guest speaker for the 12 May ESEF meeting; provisional title 'About the Geologists' Association'.

AS drew attention to the outdoor secondary learning opportunities that take place at Flag Fen Peterborough as part of the Real World Science programme.

## 10 Dates of future meetings

3 March 2015	'William Smith' Cherry Lewis, Bristol Uni. HoG Note: Guest speaker at 1.30 pm and normal agenda to follow at 2.30 pm.
12 May 2015	Geologists' Association (TBC)
13 October 2015	Speaker TBC
8 December 2015	Speaker TBC