

The Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Minutes of the thirty-second meeting

Held at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London, at 1.30 p.m. on 9 June 2009

Present: Chris King, Co-Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit)
David Bailey (British Geological Survey)
Martyn Bradley (Geology Trusts and UKRIGS)
Susan Brown (Geologists Association and Rockwatch)
Chris Carlon (Anglo American)
Cally Oldershaw (Association for Science Education)
Peter Warren
Niki Whitburn (ESTA)
Jacqui Malpas (Association of Welsh RIGS)
Speaker: Judith Mansell (Royal Geographical Society & IBG)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Allan Rogers, Co-Chairman, Andrew Rankin (CHUGD), Hugh Potter and Chris Thomas (Environment Agency), Dawn Windley (ESTA), Hellen O'Connor (The Geology Trusts), Toby White and Graham Woodrow (IOM3), Sandy Smith (Open University), Elizabeth Clements (QPA), Sylvia Knight (Royal Meteorological Society), Alison Eldridge (Royal Society of Chemistry), George Meldrum (SESEF), Chloe French (Scott Wilson), Peter Jones (UKRIGS), and Annette Thomas (Oil and Gas UK).

2 Minutes of the 31st meeting, 17 March 2009

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting (with minor amendments) and will be placed on the ESEF website. **Action: David Bailey**

3 Matters arising

[Numbers in square brackets are paragraph numbers from the minutes of the previous meeting.]

- 3.1 [3.1] *Subscriptions:* David Bailey confirmed a payment had been received from the Environment Agency.
- 3.2 [3.2] *Secretarial duties:* June Wright had discussed the Secretarial duties with Cally Oldershaw (Action completed)
- 3.3 [3.5] *BGS Strategy:* David Bailey had sent members a copy of the BGS Strategy as requested.
- 3.4 [3.6] *Future meetings* Andy Rankin has agreed to speak at the December 2009 meeting.
- 3.5 [3.7] *9 June 2009 meeting:* Judith Mansell to speak on "Earth science in the geography curriculum – Key stage 3/4" following the meeting.

Standing Items

4 Finance

Chris King reported that he had seen the accounts and that the balance was about £1500. A more detailed report would be presented at the 33rd meeting. **Action: J Wright**

5 ESEF website: www.esef.org.uk

The ESEF website had been updated with several new minutes and links added, including the links to the SESEF website but would be made live until 10 June 2009 when there would be a major update to the servers hosting the main BGS website.

6 All Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences

Dates for future meetings have been agreed:

- 9 June 2009. Anglo American to present on Legislation and Exploration Licences and Stakeholder relationships.
- 20 October 2009. British Antarctic Survey to present — subject to be confirmed¹.
- 8 December 2009. Ideas welcome.

7 Potential collaborative projects

- 7.1 Anglo American and Rockwatch had collaborated on a visit to Alderley Edge Mine. This was a follow-up to a visit to Ecton Mine. Ecton Mine is owned by IOM3; BGS is helping develop some resources for the visitor centre.
- 7.2 Geology Trusts and UKRIGS: M Bradley and Jonathan Larwood had been encouraging these groups to work together. Regional organisations works well and there could be advantages in applying jointly for funding. Geodiversity audits could not be carried out by volunteers, funding was required. It had been hoped to gain funding from local or regional government, though this now seems unlikely. J Malpas noted that the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund was administered differently in Wales, but was also supporting projects in geoconservation. Different RIGS groups applied different criteria — for instance, some insisted that sites must be accessible to the public, but others felt the key criterion is regional importance, regardless of accessibility. Also, some funding bodies set quotas for groups to designate sites though this is not always a desirable approach.
- 7.3 C Oldershaw reported that ASE now had three new members of staff in place to run the “Practical Science” project. The website is www.gettingpractical.org.uk. An article had been published in “Education in Science” (also available on the web). A logo had been designed based on traditional images from biological, chemical and physics — members felt this did not represent a modern image of multidisciplinary science. Some suggestions were made for forwarding to the ASE.
- 7.4 C King said that the Geological Society were planning a schools affiliate scheme for schools to join for a modest fee. This is a spin off of the Shell Lecture series from International Year of Planet Earth.
- 7.5 P Warren suggested that the Forum explored links with the National Trust and Museums’ Association. The former had many properties with extensive grounds with the potential for earth science education and own a lot of land on the coast. S Brown noted that the Geologists’ Association had tried to form collaborative projects with the NT with limited success locally, but the organisation had engaged much with the Geological Society’s Geoconservation Commission. P Warren said that the NT had a new Director and a new approach would be worthwhile. S Brown to find out the relevant contacts on the Commission. J Malpas noted that the NT owned parts of Anglesey Geopark and other RIGS sites. Alderley Edge is also an NT property. C King suggested that the NT are invited to send a representative to the Forum.

Action: S Brown to identify contact at NT

- 7.6 P Warren noted that the Forum had good links with the National Museum in Cardiff and the Natural History Museum had recently been represented; the Forum could foster relations with other museums. C King suggested that the first two meetings for 2010 could take the themes of the National Trust and Museums and asked C Oldershaw if the dates of the All-Party meetings for 2010 could be confirmed as a priority.
- Action: C Oldershaw to consult on dates**
- 7.7 C Oldershaw reminded members that the Future Morph website was still open to new contributions (futuremorph@sciencecouncil.org). Also, ASE was working in a consultancy role with DCSF on the Primary Review.

¹ Subsequently confirmed as ‘Forests at the South Pole? The Role and Evolutionary History of the Polar Regions in the Earth System’, presented by Prof. Nicholas Owens & Dr Alistair Crame.

7.8 D Bailey showed members the 'Climate through time' poster produced by BGS, GSI and GSNI with collaborations from ESTA, WJEC, OCR and others. BGS would also be hosting the Association of Welsh RIGS Groups website.

8 AOB

There was no other business.

9 Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held at 1.30pm on 20 October 2009 in the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London. Cally Oldershaw to convene presentations on Earth Science in the Science Curriculum with contributions from Institute of Physics and Royal Society of Chemistry.

Action: C Oldershaw

10 Earth Science in the Geography Curriculum

After the meeting Judith Mansell spoke on Earth Science in the Geography Curriculum. The presentation will be circulated to members by email.

Action: J Wright

Actions

Agenda item	Subject	Owner	Date due
32: 2	Minutes of 31st meeting to be placed on ESEF website	David Bailey	20.10.09
32:4	Finances to be reported at 33rd meeting	June Wright	20.10.09
32.7.5	Identify National Trust contact to invite to Forum	Susan Brown	20.10.09
32.7.6	Fix dates for All-Party meetings in 2010	Cally Oldershaw	20.10.09
32.9	C Oldershaw to organise speakers for October meeting	June Wright	20.10.09
32.10	Circulate presentation to members.	June Wright	20.10.09

David Bailey, September 2009