



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

Held in the Arthur Holmes meeting room, The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. 1.30pm, 1 May 2012.

**Present:** Chris King, Chairman (Earth Science Education Unit)  
David Bailey (British Geological Survey)  
David Brook (London Geodiversity Partnership)  
Susan Brown (Geologists' Association and Rockwatch)  
Tom Hose (GeoConservationUK)  
Isabel Markham (U3A)  
Cally Oldershaw  
Maggie Williams (Earth Science Teachers' Association)

### 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Steve Brace (Royal Geographical Society), Nikki Edwards (OCR), Jacqui Malpas (Clwydian Range AONB), Matthew Shepherd (Natural England), David Waltham (CHUGD), Peter Warren.

### 2 Minutes of the 43rd meeting, 24 January 2012

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

**Action: David Bailey**

### 3 Matters arising

- 3.1 *[Agenda item 3.1] Geology teacher training:* C King said that there was no definite news to report. He would be approaching Oil and Gas UK for further funding to support ESEU. It was also hoped that a summer school could be established. PESGB had been approached with a request for funding from 2013. There were currently 6 places for teacher training specialising in geology at Keele University and some were still available for the new academic year. A letter promoting the course had been sent to all earth science university department heads in the UK. T Hose suggested that a note could be written for the Geologists' Association circular, Earth Heritage magazine etc. Bursaries could also be advertised on the [www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk) website.  
**Action: C King to draft a note**
- 3.2 *[Agenda item 3.2] National Geology Database:* Action ongoing (T Hose to write a short article on the matter for the GA magazine).  
**Action: T Hose**
- 3.3 *[Agenda item 3.4] International Conference on Geotourism 22/23 October 2012:* T Hose reported that this would be a one-day forum followed by a day of excursions. About 20 abstracts had been received from all over the world. David Norman would open the conference with a keynote presentation.
- 3.4 *[Agenda item 3.5] Earth science in the National Curriculum:* M Williams had attended a Westminster Forum meeting on the Science Curriculum with C King but there were no further developments to report.
- 3.5 *[Agenda item 3.6] World Skills Environmental Science Competition:* D Bailey reviewed progress on the Environmental Science Competition to be held at the Skills Show hosted by World Skills UK at the NEC in November 2012 and aimed at sixth-form students. It was still hoped that the

competition would be accepted into the World Skills international competition in Leipzig during 2013 though it would probably be aimed at older students or apprentices.

- 3.6 *[Agenda item 3.7] Potential Collaborative Projects:* T Hose reported on a project based on Sustrans routes in Bristol using undergraduate and postgraduate student. One of the aims is to encourage young people into geoconservation. I Markham introduced a project to produce leaflets describing 'bus pass geology' in the London suburbs (e.g. Blackheath and the Thames tributaries).
- 3.7 *[Agenda item 3.8] Practical experiments and field trips:* C King said it was hoped that the outdoor working group would go forward.
- 3.8 *[Agenda item 7.2] Proposals for Heritage Lottery Funded projects:* D Brook reported that two applications had been submitted, one for Hampstead Heath and one called "London's Foundations" but the outcome was not yet known.
- 3.9 *[Agenda item 7.4] Green Chain Geotrail:* D Brook said that the opening walk had taken place successfully on 17 March. Another was planned to take place later this year or next. Most of the sites on the trail are on bus routes.
- 3.10 *[Agenda item 7.7] Geologists' Association-Geological Society-Wiley organised online Minerals and Fossils event:* S Brown reported that the event had taken place in March and had received a good response. Questions had been received by email and post and a panel of experts had provided answers.

#### **4 Finance report**

No significant change to financial position.

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

There had been no additions to the content apart from the minutes of recent meetings.

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

C Oldershaw reported that the inaugural meeting of the reconstituted group would take place at lunchtime on 22 May. The subject would be 'Gold mining and health' and discuss the high incidence of TB and HIV among miners. The meeting would be held jointly with other interested Parliamentary Groups. There would also be a meeting on 16 October at which Herbert Huppert (Cambridge University) would speak on a topic to be confirmed.

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

- 7.1 D Brook spoke about funding opportunities for Your Heritage projects. S Brown would send an email with further information to D Bailey for circulation to members.

**Action: S Brown & D Bailey**

- 7.2 T Hose mentioned that about ten Local Nature Partnership projects had been approved, and about half were expected to include some geology.

#### **8 AOB**

D Bailey outlined the proposed Scott's Footsteps project which would include webcasts to schools in the UK, including discussions of geology. He also asked if any members might be able to support a Nuffield Bursary student during the summer.

**Action: D Bailey to circulate information about Nuffield Bursaries**

#### **9 Date of future meetings**

The dates of future meetings would be:

- 16 Oct 2012 T Hose to convene presentations on fieldwork with John Reynolds (ESOS)  
NB a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth and Environmental Sciences will take place later the same day.

4 Dec 2012 M Williams to convene a discussion on the Earth Science Teachers' Association.  
5 Mar 2013 Date and discussion to be confirmed.

Meetings to be at Geological Society apartments if available.

**Action: N Bilham to confirm availability**

**The business meeting closed at 3.00pm and was followed by a presentation on the Earth Learning Idea website by Peter Kennett and Chris King**