



Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)

Minutes of the 55th meeting

Held in the Arthur Holmes Room, Geological Society, London. 1.00 pm, 12 May 2015.

Present

Annette Shelford (NHM Learning Team/Real World Science)

Chris Green (Geologists' Association)

Chris King (Earth Science Education Unit)

David Brook (London Geodiversity Partnership)

John Stevenson (BGS)

Nikki Edwards (Oxford and Cambridge RSA - OCR)

Susan Brown (Rockwatch)

1 Apologies

Alan Holiday

Annette Thomas

Duncan Hawley (Geographical Association)

Isabel Markham

Lesley Dunlop (English Geodiversity Forum)

Pete Loader (ESTA)

Peter Warren

Tom Hose (GeoConservationUK)

2 Minutes of the 54th meeting, 3 March 2015

The minutes of the 54th 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)*

CK reported that the scheduled meeting with a Senior Department of Education Official with Pete Loader and Chris King is still planned to go ahead on Tuesday 26th May 2015.

(This happened subsequently – a report on the meeting will be circulated)

NE reported that an OFQUAL review of A-level geology was underway; government observers met on 20 April to discuss the core content, including making clear distinctions between geology and geography. Public discussion will open in July 2015.

3.2 *Training for secondary geology teachers:*

CK reported 11 bursaried places have been made available for the next Summer School in Geoscience Teaching and Learning, based at Keele in July; so far, seven people have been recruited to the course.

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

NE reported that the first GeoLab event at Seaford, East Sussex, went ahead on 22 March 2015. The event was judged to be a success with 24 adults and six children taking part. More GeoLab events are in the planning stages.

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

CK reported that further statistics had since been gathered from 30 schools and the results showed that 40-45% of students that studied geology at A-level went on to study it at degree level.

3.5 *National Geology Database:*

JS reported that Diana Clements had provided a document with details and links to more than 50 Geologists' Association guides that are being added to the BGS [GeoBritain map](#). The ESEF would like to thank Diana for her hard work in drawing together such a useful resource.

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

Nothing to report.

3.7 *'Bus Pass Geology':*

Nothing to report.

3.8 *Earth Science Week (ESW):*

Nothing to report.

3.10 *Geological poster map of the British Isles:*

JS reported that the map is likely to be published in summer 2015 and may be released at the ESTA conference in September 2015.

3.11 *Future talks*

13 October 2015	Annette Thomas (ESEU), 'The Future of Earth Science Education'
8 December 2015	Annette Shelford, NHM Real World Science

4 Finance report

Nothing to report.

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

The website is up to date.

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

Nothing to report.

7 Potential collaborative projects

Nothing to report.

8 ESEF Achievements

The Geologists' Association have published a national Geotrails and Building Stones Walks listing at www.geologistsassociation.org.uk/geotrails.html. The trails therein are being added to the BGS GeoBritain map that aims to provide a comprehensive national 'geology database' resource.

9 AOB

AS provided a verbal update on the work of Natural History Museum Learning and Real World Science teams, which is summarised below:

NHM Learning update from Sally Collins:

The [Rocks the House show](#) is booking up very well with KS3, and the new Volcanoes and Earthquakes gallery (as seen and critiqued by ESEF in Dec 2013!) is very popular with schools. We are getting lots of primary schools booking the show (even though it's officially for KS3), more than before the curriculum changes and we have adapted the content appropriately. The updated [Volcanoes and Earthquakes Explore and Discover](#) student guide is selling well, after much research and development work with students and teachers.

Charlotte Brassey's research on our new stegosaurus (Sophie) will feature in the new 21st Century science text books in Sept 2016, which will reach many schools.

The programme developers are working on two new curriculum-linked, gallery-based schools' programmes that reflect earth science content in the primary curriculum; Evolution for Year 6 and Dinosaurs for KS1. These are due for launch in late 2015/early 2016.

Real World Science partnership update:

Real World Science (RWS) is a partnership of seven museums who work together to develop curriculum-linked, science learning programmes primarily for secondary schools through natural history collections. To find out more about the RWS partnership:

www.nhm.ac.uk/education/real-world-science/

New programmes developed and piloted across the partnership this year have had a heavy focus on Earth science/physical geography. This is in response to changes in the curriculum, opportunities offered by the geography curriculum at KS4 and 5 and most partner museums having underused geological collections. These are now available for schools and include:

A-level geography study day with an emphasis on geohazards and volcanology (Oxford University Museum of Natural History and soon to be piloted at Manchester Museum)

KS3 Outreach boxes covering topics such as fracking, fossils and stratigraphy (Stoke-on-Trent, Leeds and Wollaton Hall, Nottingham) This project is targeting school STEM clubs in the three cities;

ESEF members, please let teachers know that these sessions are available.

10 Dates of future meetings

13 October 2015	Annette Thomas (ESEU), 'The Future of Earth Science Education'
8 December 2015	Annette Shelford NHM Real World Science
29 March 2016	TBC
10 May 2016	TBC