



## **Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)** **Minutes of the 64th meeting**

Held in the Arthur Holmes Room, Geological Society, London. 1.00 pm, 10 October 2017.

### **Present**

Chris King (Earth Science Education Unit)  
Haydon Bailey (Network Stratigraphic)  
John Stevenson (BGS)  
Matthew Parkes (GCG)  
Nikki Edwards (ESTA)  
Tom Hose (GeoConservationUK)

### **Apologies for absence:**

Alan Holiday  
Annette Thomas (Project Consultant at Subsea UK)  
Cally Oldershaw  
David Brook (London Geodiversity Partnership)  
Duncan Hawley (Geographical Association)  
Hazel Rymer (Open University)  
Isabel Markham  
Judi Lakin (GSL)  
Lorraine Craig (Imperial College London)  
Maggie Williams (Liverpool Uni.)  
Nic Bilham (GSL)  
Pete Loader (Geological Society)  
Susan Brown (Rockwatch)

### **1. Talk /discussion**

Haydon Bailey; 'What micro fossils do for the economy?'

### **2 Minutes of the 63rd meeting, 16 May 2017**

The minutes of the 63rd 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 and A level)*  
GSCE- and A-level geology

Uptake of GSCE geology dropped by 37% in 2016; Uptake of AS and A level geology have also fallen by around 10% in 2016.

CK outlined headlines from the recent “‘Killer facts’ supporting geology in schools and colleges” article in Teaching Earth Sciences, which highlighted some of the benefits of students taking geology, including:

- Students perform better in geology than they do in other science subjects
- The AS to A2 staying on rate is better in geology than in other science subjects
- Geology contains elements of all the STEM subjects - critical for those who want to continue studying a science
- Geology is seen as a USP for schools that offer it

**Action CK** to contact Teaching Earth Sciences editor to circulate ‘Killer facts’ article to ESEF membership and also to seek permission to republish elsewhere.

*After the meeting a pdf copy of the article was sent by the Editor of Teaching Earth Sciences for circulation to the ESEF membership.*

**Action JS to contact PL** to check progress of re-running the Geol Soc’s ‘First destinations’ survey of recent graduates.

PL gave the following update after the meeting. *‘This is on the agenda for the next GSL Education Committee this month and I will report back ASAP. Nikki Edwards and I are in discussions about the way forward for contacting the DfE over GSCE geology and Progress 8 listings.’*

The group discussed the re-categorising GCSE geology as a science in both the *Progress 8* listings and the English Baccalaureate.

**Action: NE to contact the Geol Soc to make representation to take this forward. CK to write a letter of support.**

*In view of the feedback from PL, the writing of the letter will be deferred until the way forward is clearer.*

### 3.2 Training for secondary geology teachers:

The Keele Summer School will run again in 2018. Ten bursaried places are on offer.

CK reported that the PGCE Geology Teaching training course at Keele, usually three students per year, did not routinely result in teachers going on to teach geology. CK mooted that he was most likely to devote his efforts towards the Keele Summer school and wind up the Keele PGCE course in 2018; no applicants had been received during 2017 for the 2018 course.

### 3.3 Geology for Non-Geologists training ‘Geolab’:

NE and HB reported that Geolab plans to run its next event at the National Stone Centre, Wirksworth, on Saturday 14 October. A further Geolab event is planned for spring 2018 at Woolhope, Herefordshire.

HB reported that one of Geolab's original objectives was to encourage local people, with no prior geological knowledge, to learn more about geology as part of a push to encourage new GA members. Three new GA members have been recruited as a result of the previous Geolab events and now attend local society meetings.

### 3.4 *National Geology Database*

JS reported that work on adding the GA guides to the database/map was up-to-date with just a handful of start points/grid references that need further input from the GA.

The group discussed the need to give the map a higher profile and greater visibility.

**Action JS** to improve visibility on the BGS website and to promote through social media.

**Action JS** to write an article about the map for the GA and GCUK magazines to improve visibility and awareness of the map.

**Action all ESEF** to circulate the web link to the map to their members and groups to encourage them to add missing or new map pins [www.bgs.ac.uk/geomap](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geomap)

### 3.5 *Geological poster map of UK and Ireland*

The poster map was given away to delegates of the ESTA conference at Keele in Sept 2017.

JS suggested that BGS could produce additional downloadable resources to support classroom teaching with the map. Duncan Hawley of the GA, via the Geographical Association Physical Geography Special Interest Group (PG SIG), had drafted a 'wish list' of such resources prior to publishing the map.

**Action JS** to send an edited wishlist to ESTA chair, Jo Conway, with a suggestion to request ESTA members to provide suggestions for downloadable supporting resources in the next edition of Teaching Earth Sciences.

### 3.6 *Mobilising the geoscience community' project.*

JS reported that the latest questionnaire canvassing for a name and date for the initiative had so far got 65 responses.

**Action JS** to send out a reminder to ESEF members to complete the questionnaire and circulate to their networks and local groups.

### 3.7 *BESER 'Subject leadership development programme'*

No updates.

## 4 **Finance report**

Nothing to report.

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

JS reported that the website is up to date.

## 6 **Potential collaborative projects**

TH reported that GCUK is supporting the use of QR codes for geotrails.

JS reported that BGS was working with the London GeoBus (UCL) to produce a schools' /public event work booklet to accompany the Climate Through Time floor map.

MP reported that GCG are producing a new advice note for third level university students to help them better manage collections in preparation for PhD study.

## 7 **ESEF Achievements**

Nothing to report.

## 8 **AOB**

### **Geology walking guides/maps**

The subject of producing geology walking guides was discussed and it prompted the question 'is there a template we can use?' Downloadable pdf guides were seen as a low-cost option, but no one knew of a widely used template as such.

**Action JS** offered to look into making template guides using ARGIS online's Story Maps and to produce a mock-up for discussion at the next meeting.

### **9 Dates of future meetings**

**12 December 2017** Judi Lakin; 'About the Geological Society education programme'

**17 April 2018** Matthew Parkes: 'GCG and geological education in museums'

**5 June 2018** Speaker TBC