

DRAFT NOTE OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE ENGLISH STONE FORUM HELD ON 8TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Summary of actions

All Members	4, 11, 14d, 19e
David Bent	-----
Jane Buxey	-----
Peter Doyle	7, 11
Alison Henry	7, 8, 14a, 17b, 19a, 19b
Terry Hughes	7, 9, 10, 16, 18b, 18d, 19d
Jon Humble	13
Graham Lott	18a
Eleni Makri	7, 9, 17c
Brian Marker	5, 6, 13, 14a, 14c, 17a, 17d, 18b, 18d
Tarnia McAlester	-----
Michael Poultney	9, 18c, 20a
David Priestman	-----
Ian Thomas	13, 14a, 14d, 18b, 20a
Chris Wood	15b
Tim Yates	18b

1. Attending:

Peter Doyle, Alison Henry, Terry Hughes, Eleni Makri, Brian Marker, Michael Poultney and Ian Thomas.

2. Apologies:

David Bent, Jane Buxey, Jon Humble, Graham Lott, Tarnia Mc Alester, David Priestman, Chris Wood and Tim Yates.

3. Note of the 20th meeting held on 8th June 2011 – there were no corrections

4. Chair of the English Stone Forum

It was noted that Brian Marker will resign as chairman by the end of 2011. He will chair the November 2011 meeting of the Forum and will attend the first meeting in 2012 but a new chairperson will take over then. Brian is willing to assist the Forum after standing down but cannot attend all meetings thereafter. The replacement was discussed and it was concluded that it would be best for members of the Forum to take over the Chair on a rotating basis. There would also be a need for someone to take notes during the meetings.

All members should inform Terry Hughes and Brian Marker whether or not they are willing to either chair or take notes of the meeting on a rotating basis before the November 2011 meeting of the Forum.

5. Invitations to attend ESF meetings

Brian Marker had sent invitations to Sarah Croft, Björn Schouenborg and Luis Alvarez-Parra but had not received replies. However Björn and Luis were only likely to respond when they were visiting London for other reasons so they should be informed of dates of meetings in

case they can match these to their visits. **It was agreed that Brian Marker should again invite Sarah to attend, or for a colleague of hers to attend, when the Heritage Lottery Fund is a specific agenda item.** ESF should consider whether a good approach would be to prepare guidelines jointly with the HLF. Ian Thomas pointed out that training was often required in HLF grants to voluntary bodies but the standard of such training had been very variable. In the Midlands, the Midlands Heritage Training Group will monitor standards.

6. Implementation of the work programme

Paper ESF 11-18 has been presented to ESF as a possible approach to monitoring of progress based on the agreed key topics of interest to ESF. It has 2 parts: the first considered progress against actions; the second considers communication initiatives. It was agreed that the proformas, as presented, were useful and should be adopted by ESF. It was also agreed that these tables should form a focus for future ESF agenda items. **Brian Marker agreed to revise the content to reflect the outcomes of the present ESF meeting.**

(Please see attached tables – ESF11-18 revised - amended to reflect discussions at this meeting)

7. Proposed book “England’s Stone Buildings”

Peter Doyle had prepared a draft proposal. **This would need to be recast for the English Heritage form by Alison Henry and for the National Trust form by Terry Hughes, in liaison with Peter. This should be done before the end of 2011** so that decisions are available in early 2012. While it was desirable to have EH/NT endorsement of the book, a fall-back would be to offer the book to a commercial publisher which might pay an advance that could be used in securing photographs and copyright permissions. A project leader should be appointed in early 2012. **Peter agreed to undertake plain English editing. Terry would provide a chapter on stone slate and Eleni offered a section on architecture and stone.** It was agreed that the book should be organised in sections based on natural regions and should cover vernacular architecture as well as individual buildings.

8. Visit to Baddesley Clinton – Brian Marker reported a visit arranged by Maurice Rogers. A source of stone had been secured from a new excavation within the estate and was now being used in repairing the building. The operation had been regarded as “de minimis” by the Mineral Planning Authority. An article had since been published in Natural Stone Specialist. **It was agreed that Alison Henry should contact the National Trust and the architect about this initiative and prepare a website page. Ian Thomas agreed to provide a parallel item on similar initiatives that had been blocked or stalled by the planning system.**

9. Collection of stone samples – the samples was still at Michael Poultney’s office. It was agreed that, as a first step, **Michael should arrange for the samples to be scanned and send these on disk to Terry Hughes so that these can be loaded onto the website as soon as possible.** Subsequently, it would be considered whether thin sections and petrographic descriptions should be added, perhaps using residual ESF money held in an account by the Stone Federation Great Britain. It was suggested that the specimens could be housed at the RIBA library so that architects could easily inspect them. It was thought that this option would be favoured by the industry and would encourage the provision of additional samples. **Eleni Makri would investigate whether the RIBA would be willing to do this and report back.** Fall back positions would be to place the collection with the National Stone Centre, or the BGS. Wherever the material is placed, it should be under conditions that it can be displayed from time to time by the ESF at the Stone Show or other similar events and that the collection should be returned to ESF in the event that the hosting body might become unable or unwilling to continue holding it.

10. Strategic Stone Study

About 10 counties had now been completed but others in the current study would not now be until Spring 2012. Arrangements for testing the GIS would be made soon. Terry Hughes reported that he had successfully used south-west England material on stone slates and that

it had saved considerable time and resources. **He agreed to prepare a note on this for the website.**

11. National Planning Policy Framework

An ESF response should be prepared to this important consultation paper from CLG. The consultation will end on 17th October so **all members are asked to provide comments to Brian Marker by the end of September to allow time for him to draft the response and a draft press announcement and circulate it for final comments from members.** It was agreed that the response should adopt a generally positive tone but seek fine tuning on matters of particular concern. Attention should be paid to the existing wording but anything important that is not included should also be kept in mind. **Peter Doyle agreed to check for a potential circulation list for press announcements amongst his contacts.**

12. Peak District National Park minerals policies – the inquiry had been held and the Inspector's recommendations were currently being considered. A document aimed at the general public was being prepared from the results of the NSC study of safeguarding stone slate resources. It is possible that a similar study on safeguarding of building stone resources might be commissioned.

13. All Party Parliamentary Groups – it was agreed that two approaches were needed: one through a minerals group the other via a heritage group. **It was agreed that Brian Marker should contact the CBI about the inclusion of an ESF presentation in an All Party Minerals Group meeting. Ian Thomas should contact Jon Humble about a suitable heritage committee.** It would probably be necessary to tailor the focus of presentations to fit with the agendas of other organisations. Possible topics are:

- imports and domestic supplies;
- sustainability of building and roofing stone;
- supply and specification;
- fitness for purpose;
- proportionality of planning requirements and conditions; and
- loss of capacity and skills.

14. Global Heritage Stone initiative

a) The paper on Portland Stone had been submitted to Geoheritage. **Ian Thomas, Alison Henry and Brian Marker had been suggested as reviewers and would probably be invited to comment in due course.**

b) The Welsh Slate paper had not yet been progressed.

c) Barry Cooper has proposed a session on this topic at the European Geological Union Conference in Vienna (March 2012). **Brian Marker, who would be attending the Conference for other purposes, would collaborate with Barry on this, attend the session and report back.**

d) **All members were invited to contribute to lists of English stone that might qualify as globally, nationally or regionally significant by the date the next meeting. Ian Thomas agreed to prepare definitions that could be used when considering possible candidate stones.**

15. Funding for initiatives

a) NSC application for funding a stone collection - The NSC application was unsuccessful but the Centre had been asked to consider re-applying.

b) Heritage Protection Programme – this was referred to in the note of the previous meeting but **the note required clarification from Chris Wood** as to whether it was a route for funding initiatives of interest to ESF.

16. Links with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Terry Hughes reported that Colin Tennant has now settled into Historical Scotland and wanted to remain in touch with the ESF. **It was agreed that Terry Hughes should, as a matter of course, copy notes of ESF meetings to Colin and also to Jana Horak (Wales) and Patricia Warke (Northern Ireland).**

17. Participation in events

a) *Living With Minerals 4 (November 2011)*- Brian Marker will attend the Conference on UK Minerals Forum business and will report back on the event.

b) IHBC 2012 (Winchester) on "Significance" - Fiona Newton had been contacted about possible ESF participation but no response had been received. **It was agreed that Alison Henry should contact her again.**

c) RIBA – Eleni Makri agreed to check on any possible future collaboration possibilities.

d) **It was noted that the Ecobuild event (March 2012) should be placed on the agenda for the next ESF meeting.**

18. Progress on the website (www.englishstone.org.uk)

a) *Wiki Building Stone Page* - Michael Poultney and Tim Yates had commented to Graham Lott who will consider this on return from New Zealand.

b) *Conversion of Stone Show talks to web documents* – Terry Hughes had restructured Graham Lott's paper and was awaiting comments from Graham. **Tim Yates had agreed to provide some text to go with his power-point. Ian Thomas offered to provide his paper on safeguarding. Terry Hughes would ask Chloe Wrighton whether the BGS contribution could be used and Brian Marker would contact Geoffrey Walton about his.**

c) *Stone Federation CPD text* – Michael Poultney will check whether this can be loaded onto the website.

d) *Hereford Town Trail* – Brian Marker to finish editing and send to Terry Hughes for final formatting and uploading. Brian Marker to prepare press announcement.

19. Proposed articles and papers

a) ***English Heritage Conservation Bulletin and Heritage Today* – Chris Wood had discussed the possibility of a special issue in 18months to 2 years time. **Alison Henry agreed to check on progress.** An article in Heritage Today would reach the general public and might be best co-ordinated with the publication of England's Stone Buildings.**

b) ***Building Conservation Directory* – Terry Hughes had contacted Jonathan Taylor who had show surprise at the offer of an article and did not seem to show enthusiasm. **Alison Henry agreed to speak to Jonathan.****

c) ***Article for the Country Landowners and Business Association* – in abeyance until 2012.**

d) ***Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association* - Terry Hughes would continue to try to make contact.**

e) ***Geology Today* - Peter Doyle drew attention to the established series of articles on building stone in Geology Today. Articles should consist of 1500-3000 words with good**

photographs. **Members of ESF should initially propose titles to Peter to make sure that these did not repeat other recent articles.**

20. Other business

a) It was reported that Vicki Munn, a planner in Somerset CC, had sought advice on diversification of quarry products. **It was agreed that Ian Thomas and Michael Poultney should discuss the matter with her and, if appropriate, she should be invited to a future ESF meeting.**

b) Ian Thomas reported that research by NAMHO for English Heritage to carry out a “gap analysis” on archaeology and history of quarries would produce a draft for public comment soon.

c) Ian Thomas reported that on the weekend of 10th-11th September the first national showcase event for stone balancing would be held at the National Stone Centre. A bid would soon be prepared for the Stone Centre to be either improved or re-developed.

d) Terry Hughes reported that he would attend a meeting in Northamptonshire on 9th September to discuss the prospects from bringing Collyweston Slate back into production in connection with the restoration and re-roofing of Kirby Hall.

e) Ian Thomas reported the case of a church in Leicestershire that had been re-roofed 3 years ago ostensibly with Swithland Slate. In fact, an imported substitute had been used and was already showing signs of deterioration.

f) It was reported that Björn Schouenborg is currently involved in the preparation of a European standard for schists and phyllites used as roofing slate.

21. The 22nd meeting will be held at 12.00hrs on Thursday 24th November 2011 and the 23rd meeting will be held on either 31st January or 1st February 2012 at the office of English Heritage, 3rd Floor, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST