

ACTION POINTS

For convenience, actions relating to members are as follows:

All members	7, 19, 21
Terry Hughes	2, 7
Graham Lott	11, 13
Tarnia MacAlester	5
Brian Marker	3, 10, 20, 25
Michael Poultney	4, 5, 18, 20
Ian Thomas	20
Chris Wood	7, 11, 13, 23

1. It was reported that the Peak Park Strategy had been discussed in a meeting between Anne Plackett, Richard Bate, Ken Smith and David Bent. There was now a prospect of the definition of some safeguarding areas for building stone resources for use within the Park. Concern was expressed that this would not suffice for repair and maintenance of important buildings situated outside the Park but which require specific stone from within it. The policy would need some flexibility. A desk study of slate resources followed by walk-over field survey would be undertaken before the end of February 2010. It would look also at sites up to 5km outside the Park boundaries. The Park Authority was also considering applying end use controls to building stone sites.

2. Terry Hughes had secured a contact in CADW – Nick Davis. Brian Marker asked **Terry Hughes** to provide him with Nick's contact details.

3. It was agreed that Ewan Hyslop should be invited to join the Forum because he was shortly to take a lead role on building stone in BGS. **Brian Marker** was asked to send Ewan a letter of invitation.

4. **Michel Poultney** confirmed that he had not yet raised the issue of Corporation of London Information with the SFGB technical committee because the meeting had been cancelled. He would do so at the next meeting.

5. On the English Heritage Strategic Stone Study, it was reported that a meeting had been held with CLG on possible additional funding. Work on 14 counties is in progress with the emphasis on gaining a better overall sample of representative buildings. It was intended to refine the spread sheets and data capture method. It was expected that existing data would be captured by late February or early March and would be uploaded by BGS in April 2010. A representative from the Planning Officers Society to the management committee would be sought. Michael Poultney expressed concern that he had not been approached for information on Dorset sites. It was explained that much of the information had been compiled over the years by a local worker. However **Tarnia MacAlester** would speak to **Michael Poultney** and he would provide a site list and distribution information that would extend beyond use within the boundaries of Dorset. It was suggested that contacts should be made with the Minerals Products Association (Ken Hobden) and British Aggregates Association (Peter Huxtable) since their memberships included some building stone producers.

6. None of the items sent to the press had yet been published. Eric Bignall (Natural Stone Specialist) had informed Terry Hughes that he had received little information on the Forum even though Brian Marker had e-mailed Eric a summary of progress on 4th November 2009. Eric is now aware that he can get updates on ESF activities from the website.

7. ESF website. Links and other material, including a section on sustainability and a list of conservation publications, had been added to the website. There had been no suggested additions to the bibliographies and town trails list. **All members** were asked to report any relevant items that they see. Brian Marker confirmed that he had contacted the Country Land

Owners and Business Association about a link to their website some time ago. They had provided a holding reply but had not been in contact since. **Chris Wood** agreed to take up the matter with his contact in the CLBA. **Terry Hughes** would arrange direct links to the stone articles on the Building Conservation Directory website.

8. It was noted that inappropriate stone had been proposed for the repaving of Bellgate in Lincoln but had been greeted by strong local opposition. Coal Measures sandstone had been used instead. It would be important to highlight successes on the website as well as failures.

9. It was reported that Brazil had lodged a formal objection to the treatment of their isostatically compressed roofing stones in the European slate standard on the grounds that it was anti-competitive. It was now intended that new parts to the Slate Standard would be prepared for phyllites, schists for Norway and Sweden and the Brazilian stones.

10. The summary of recent work of the ESF had been sent to key publications on 4th November but there had been no uptake so far. It was pointed out that contact by press officers with editors is often needed to make sure that publication takes place, but ESF does not have the capacity to do this. Terry Hughes had prepared a Wikipedia entry that had been uploaded. Members expressed some concern that entries could be accessed and changed by other parties, therefore it would be necessary to monitor the site at intervals to make sure that the material was still sound. At the previous meeting articles on choosing stone and on inappropriate use of stone had been proposed. However it was agreed that these could be covered by making links to existing articles. An article on sustainability of stone, including references to imports and to ethical use of stone would still be appropriate. **Brian Marker** agreed to prepare a first draft for circulation to members of ESF for comment, amendments and additions.

11. It was suggested that there would be merit in trying to secure a contact with a suitable freelance journalist. **Chris Wood** agreed to ask the English Heritage press office for suggestions. A potential outlet for articles was Heritage Today which accepts material of about 1500 words accompanied by photographs. Another outreach possibility would be to place material on a stand at the Hillhead Exhibition in June 2010. **Graham Lott** agreed to find out whether space might be available on the BGS stand. Another potential venue might be Ecobuild.

12. Free copies of the York Conference Proceedings had been distributed at the meeting held at the Geological Society on 1st October 2009. Free copies had also been sent to the Planning Committee of the British Aggregates Association, to Stancliffe Stone and to MIRO.

13. No new research funding opportunities had been identified. However John Humble suggested that the Lottery Fund might be considered as a possible source of support for appropriate project proposals. It was noted that BGS had been unsuccessful in winning minerals work on "Greater Yorkshire" from Yorkshire Forward. A meeting on the matter would take place in January. Graham Lott and Chris Wood would discuss the matter.

14. The example material for the proposed book on building stone in collaboration with the National Trust had been developed further and would be submitted within the next week or so. Rory Cullen, Head of Buildings, in the Trust has agreed to help with selecting buildings for illustrations. ESF would need to secure a source of funds to cover time spent on the preparation of text.

15. It was confirmed that ESF responses had been made to public consultations on draft PPS15 and on draft guidance on the mining waste directive

16. It was reported that representations had been made on a proposed extension to Ham Hill Quarry. Henry Russell had felt that the reply was unbalanced, emphasising building stone interests over archaeological heritage. Since Henry was not able to attend the present meeting this issue would be placed on the agenda of the following meeting. However members at the meeting felt that ESF had competence only to comment on building stone issues; it was for the mineral planning authorities to balance all of the relevant issues when

considering the application; and that placing caveats on comments would weaken representations made by the ESF.

17. John Humble reported that he was now spending about 20% of his time on minerals issues including the legacy of historical extraction. The National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO) has commissioned a 2 year development of a national research framework for the historical extractive industry, by mineral and by region. Ian Thomas confirmed that he would be chairing NAMHO from April 2010.

18. The Technical Committee of SFGB had discussed the issue of ethical trading but had concluded that it would be better to focus on sound approaches to selection of stone, building on material in Eurocodes and other standards. Consultants were reluctant to support this since it might reduce the need for their advice. A document would be prepared and **Michael Poultney** would copy this to the ESF in due course.

19. Graham and Terry had submitted draft Global Heritage Stone citations for Portland Stone and Welsh Slate to Barry Cooper in connection with the IAEG Global Heritage Stone initiative. Barry had indicated that he would be at a meeting in Spain in March 2010. Tim Yates agreed to speak to him there. Barry would be attending the ESF meeting in June 2010 and was also seeking opportunities for visits to sites and to the National Stone Centre and building stone collections. **Members** were asked to contact him directly to help develop his programme at barry.cooper@unisa.edu.ac .

20. A successful building stone meeting had been convened by BGS at the Geological Society meeting held on 1st October 2009. Those who attended had been asked for statements of issues of concern prior to the meeting and Andrew McMillan and Brian Marker had led a discussion on these. ESF members felt that the matters had been too complex to address in a single day. The meeting had not adequately addressed the getting of planning permission, parity of indigenous stone with imports, and the "green agenda". One possibility might be to revive the idea of an ESF led meeting on sustainability of building and roofing stones but sustainability needed to be properly defined. However there was general agreement that the issue needed to be properly scoped before considering how the issue might be best taken forward focussing how best to convey key messages to mineral planning authorities. Local distinctiveness might be a good starting point. Lessons learnt from planning consents and refusals might also be useful. It was agreed that **Brian Marker, Ian Thomas and Michael Poultney** should undertake initial scoping with **Brian Marker** providing the initial material. This might, in time, lead to a basis for revision of the "Green Guide". It would also be appropriate to, in due course, prepare articles on sustainability for Context and other publications. It was also important that the ESF website should come to be thought of as a portal for England building stone information.

21 The list of meeting delegate's concerns was considered. It was agreed that one significant issue was access to information on stone properties, availability etc. Much of this information is available but clearly people couldn't find it easily. It was agreed to compile a set of information sources to see if they could become a set for a portal at the ESF website. This is a list from the concerns for suggestions of sources of existing information **Action by All**.

- databases and archives on building stone
 - performance
 - characteristics,
 - location/resources,
 - availability
- locations of a national stone collections
- problems associated with inappropriate stone and the basis for stone matching
- sustainability of building stone
- ethical trading issues
- comparison of stone with other construction materials in respect of impacts on nature and landscape
- European regulations for testing and labelling

the importance of building stone quarries

22. The National Stone Centre study on safeguarding of stone resources had been completed but had not yet been signed off. It was considered that it would be necessary, at the appropriate time, to discuss the formulation of more widely applicable guidelines with the British Geological Survey and of approaches to implementation with representatives of mineral planning authorities. Ian Thomas indicated that the approach had been developed for a single area. There would be merit in testing the approach in other trial areas before drawing general conclusions.

23. It was noted that the next IHBC Summer School would be devoted to “delivering excellence in conservation”. **Chris Wood** agreed to speak to then organisers about a possible ESF presentation, copying Alison Henry in on the exchange.

24. It was noted that stonemasonry was to be demoted at the 2011 World Skills event but the Forum agreed that this was a matter for the industry.

25. The European Commission Directorate of Enterprise and Industry consultation on issues for strategic minerals was discussed. It was agreed that **Brian Marker** should complete and submit the form relating to planning issues by the closing date of 7th December. Because of the short time it would not be possible to consult ESF members on the content but the response would be copied to all when it was submitted.

26. Ian Thomas reported that the Training Centre at the National Stone Centre is due to be completed by June 2010. The Centre had been engaged to undertake a project on geodiversity that mainly covered aggregates sites but did include some building stone sites.

27. Brian Marker reported that he had submitted a question to, and attended, the English Heritage “Heritage Counts” event but the question had not been selected for presentation to the panel.

The 15th meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th March 2010 and the 16th meeting on Wednesday 16th June 2010 at the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.