

NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE ENGLISH STONE FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30th MARCH 2011

ACTIONS;

All	9
Terry Hughes	8b, 8c, 11
Jon Humble	7d
Graham Lott	2, 8b
Brian Marker	6, 7a, 7b
Michael Poultney	2, 8b
Tim Yates	8b

1. Information on the Global Heritage Stone Initiative was sent to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Welsh Forum had included a note on the initiative in its most recent Newsletter. Joanne Curran of Consarc Design had responded for Northern Ireland agreeing to contribute to the initiative (in liaison with Queen's University and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency) and proposing Ballymagrehan Granite as a candidate stone. They would approach Barry Cooper about this and would also be willing to liaise with contacts in the Office for Public Works in the Irish Republic.
2. It was agreed that the exhibit at the Natural Stone Show, particularly the display of specimens, had been very successful. Thanks were due particularly to Michael Poultney and Alison Henry but also to others who had manned the stand. Consideration should be given to exhibiting at the next Show. It was noted that there should be clearer identification of the ESF element of the stand. It was agreed that the exhibit of specimens should be made more widely available by scanning the specimens and placing the images on the website. **It was agreed that Graham Lott would collect the specimens from Albion Stone, arrange for scanning by BGS, and place them on the BGS website with a link from the ESF site. Michael Poultney would then approach the industry about the possible provision of additional samples and the preparation of thin sections (at a cost of about £35 per section).** Consideration would also be given to the inclusion of technical data but this would need careful thought because of the need to ensure quality of information. A press announcement should be made when the first round of images are available on the websites.
3. Thirteen areas in the Strategic Stone Study had been completed and the database was demonstrated at the Stone Show. The remainder of the existing study areas were progressing towards completion in September 2011 although in some areas geological records were much more numerous than buildings information (e.g. in the North West of England). In a few areas not yet included in the Study, BGS was recording information when it became available, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils had expressed interest in securing information for their areas.
4. Work on the proposed book on building stone in collaboration with National Trust was "on hold" pending the completion of other work.
5. The terms of reference were discussed. It was agreed that the 3 items referring to training should be replaced by a single point "To encourage the provision of training to maintain necessary skills and experience and to include links to relevant websites in the ESF site"
6. Several sets of comments had been received on the relative priorities for the future ESF work plan. It was agreed that most of the items were important but that it would be wise to focus on about 6 or so of the most important to start with. The annotated summary is attached to this note. The key items identified were -

ESF should encourage understanding amongst the public, landowners and planners of The importance of supplies of building stone and, therefore, of continued quarrying
ESF should encourage compilation and promulgation of information on instances where there is a lack of stone for repair, maintenance or new building
ESF should continue to draw attention to, and make representations (through European, national and local public consultations) on planning and regulatory issues, as these arise, perhaps by preparing a good practice guide, with particular regard to the need for planning provisions and decisions to be well informed and proportionate to the nature of proposed operations
ESF should continue to draw attention to, and make representations (through European, national and local public consultations) on planning and regulatory issues, as these arise, perhaps by preparing a good practice guide, with particular regard to the need for the content of environmental impact assessment and requests for additional planning information to be proportionate to the nature of the proposed operation
ESF should encourage better understanding of the technical and aesthetic implications of differences between various types of stone and consequences of inappropriate use
ESF should encourage better understanding of the need for promotion of local distinctiveness and character of place to specifiers of stone and others
ESF should encourage better understanding of the need for promotion of local distinctiveness and character of place to specifiers of stone and others
ESF should encourage better understanding of the need to consider a wider variety of available local stone to avoid the tendency towards “blanket use” of a single type of stone in vernacular settings
ESF should, in respect of sustainability, encourage understanding that sustainability of stone is not just about carbon emissions and to promulgate information on sustainability including whole life energy requirements

It was agreed that a paper should be prepared setting out how these should be addressed, who should participate and targets for completion.

7. Regarding the possible need for representations on issues:

a) it was noted that DCLG was still interested in receiving views on the proposed new National Planning Framework. **Brian Marker agreed to prepare a draft for circulation.**

b) no comments had been made by ESF on the Peak District National Park Core Strategy. **It was agreed that a paper should be drafted by Brian Marker on the issue of apparently restrictive policies for supply of stone taking several examples rather than focussing only on the Peak District, perhaps to be submitted to Minerals Planning.**

c) the issue of an English Heritage objection to proposed mining at Bowers Quarry, Portland, was discussed. It was explained that the objection had come from a specific unit with EH that had not consulted more widely within the organisation before responding. Discussions would take place within EH.

d) **Jon Humble had been unable to attend and speak on planning issues but he would provide a note for circulation to members.**

8. Progress on the website (www.englishstone.org.uk):

a) Following the publication of an article on the website in Natural Stone Specialist adjustments had been made to the site to, as far as possible, address criticisms set out in the otherwise supportive article.

b) **Graham Lott had prepared a draft “wiki” page on English Stone and requested inputs to the text from Michael Poultney and Tim Yates. It was agreed that after that material had been incorporated the draft text would be circulated to all members for comment by Terry Hughes.**

c) **It was agreed that now the Yorkshire Conference proceedings were out of print these should be converted to a .pdf file and placed on the website for downloading.** Copyright clearance of photographs should be undertaken as necessary.

9. The Hereford Town Trail text had been made available to members for comment. **It was requested that all who intended to comment should let Brian Marker know within the next few days. Any difficulty in accessing the text should also be reported. Comments should be made by the end of April.** It was noted that a few images would require copyright clearance. **Graham Lott agreed to investigate whether a better map could be provided.**

10. On ESF outreach:

a) It had not proved possible to find a freelance journalist with an interest in building stone. Eric Bignell had suggested that he might provide some articles based on information provided by the ESF which he would forward to other journals, newspapers etc although it is up to them whether they get published. This was welcomed.

b) The proposed article for the Country Landowners and Business Association was “on hold” pending completion of other work

c) Inappropriate stone used on HLF funded projects. Chris Wood had been in contact with the Heritage Lottery Fund and would report to a future meeting of ESF.

d) Brian Marker will attend the stone sustainability session of the European Geological Union meeting in Vienna on 6th April 2011 and give a presentation co-authored with Barry Cooper. He would report back and perhaps prepare some additional material on sustainability based on the papers given at the event.

e) Brian Marker reported that there are plans for a Geological Society publication on building stone in 2013 that may be linked to a conference in Bath. He had discussed the possible event with representatives of Bath Stone Firms and Bath College and provided feedback to the prospective organisers who are led by Professor Joann Cassar at the University of Malta.

f) Photographs and map to accompany the Portland Global Stone Initiative citation had been sent to Barry Cooper.

11. It was agreed that the paper on sustainability should now be illustrated with photographs, placed on the website and a press announcement should be issued when it is available.

12. Terry Hughes had contacted the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association and was awaiting a response.

13. Other business:

a) Terry Hughes reported that SPAB had supported a study by Glasgow Caledonian University on u-values for traditionally constructed walls. This had indicated that performance is significantly better than those estimated through current procedures. The researchers now needed samples of stone for testing of thermal conductivity. Michael Poultney agreed to consider organising samples from quarries.

b) The National Stone Centre had developed a school pack on materials in the built environment for use at key stage 2.

c) David Bent reported that consideration was being given to the possible re-opening of Burntwood Quarry for material needed for the repair of Chatsworth House.

14. Date of the 20th meeting Wednesday 8th June 2011 to be held at **English Heritage, 1 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST**. The 21st meeting will take place on either 6th or 8th September 2011.