

NOTE OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE ENGLISH STONE FORUM HELD ON 24th NOVEMBER 2011

Summary of actions

All Members	8a, 9d, 10a, 11a, 11f, 13b
David Bent	7b
Jane Buxey	10h
Peter Doyle	5
Alison Henry	1c, 5, 10g, 11c, 11d, 11g, 12a
Terry Hughes	1a, 3, 5, 9b, 10b, 11e
Jon Humble	13a
Graham Lott	9a, 10c, 12b
Eleni Makri	10d
Brian Marker	1b, 2a, 2b, 2c, 6d, 10b, 10e, 10f, 11a, 13a, 14, 15a, 15b
Michael Poultney	1b, 10c, 10h, 12b, 13b
David Priestman	-----
Ian Thomas	1c, 8b
Chris Wood	-----
Tim Yates	10f, 15c

1. Note of the 21ST meeting held on 8th September 2011

No points of inaccuracy were raised.

Matters arising were:

a) para 6 – noted that an invitation to Sarah Crofts to attend a future meeting of ESF when Heritage Lottery Fund issues are on the agenda should be kept in mind. **Terry Hughes to note this.**

b) para 16 – the CBI's Living with Minerals 4 Conference took place on 4th November. UK Minerals Forum Working Group presentations were given, and discussed. These covered: planning skills; future large scale supply of minerals; and public communication. The planning skills element seems likely to be taken forward through new CPD provisions for generalist planners. Communication was considered in 3 ways:

- reaching out to schools – the best way is through site visits but teachers only take these up if they are interested in, and not antagonistic to, mineral working. It was agreed that the issue should be discussed with the Earth Science Teachers' Association.
- techniques of public communication – a guidance note for the industry, planners and others was prepared in draft and is to be published on selected websites. Jon Humble provided an example of a communications plan that could be reflected when the paper is being finalised.
- Illustrated public information modules had been prepared to be downloaded for use in customised presentations. These cover: minerals and their uses; how minerals are worked; the planning and environmental permitting systems; and how the public can engage with the industry and regulators. These would be placed on a website for public comment before being finalised.

Brian Marker confirmed that building and roofing stones are included. **Michael Poultney agreed to provide some photographs if Brian Marker provides a list.**

c) para 20a – **Alison Henry to provide contact details for Vicki Munn (Somerset CC) so that Michael Poultney and Ian Thomas can discuss diversification of quarry products with her.**

2. Management issues

The current issues were:

- Who will Chair and who will take the note of the next meeting?
- When should that meeting take place?
- Implementation of the work programme.

a) It was agreed that a list of willingness to chair and/or take meeting notes, or otherwise should be prepared. If there were 6 or so volunteers for each task then it would only recur once every two years. **Brian Marker to circulate the table after the meeting for members to fill in their responses.**

b) Concern had been expressed by several members about the frequency of meetings because of difficulty in attending these and costs to English Heritage. It was felt that quarterly was excessive and that it might be possible to reduce the number by e-exchanges and video or telephone conferences although the latter would have logistical difficulties. Another alternative would be to set up some smaller working groups with fewer meetings of the full ESF. Because of the low number of people attending this meeting it was agreed that the matter should be taken up afterwards. **Brian Marker to write to all members seeking views.**

c) **Brian Marker to update the work progress table to reflect the outcome of this meeting in a form that could be used to record progress at future meetings.**

3. Links with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Noted that the copying of ESF minutes to Colin Tennant, Jana Horak and Patricia Warke had commenced. Colin had indicated that he could not attend the present meeting but that Emily Tracey of BGS might be able to. In the event, Emily could not attend but offered to give a talk to a future ESF meeting on recent work on building stone methodologies. **Terry Hughes to note that Emily should be invited to attend the next meeting.** It was noted that the Welsh Stone Forum AGM would take place soon.

4. English Heritage Strategic Stone study

A number off areas had now been completed and could be downloaded from the BGS website. The current status of sections is:

STRATEGIC STONE STUDY: COUNTY STONE ATLASES	
UPLOADED TO WEBSITE	TO BE COMPLETED BY END OF 2011-2012 FINANCIAL YEAR
Avon	Cumbria
Bedfordshire	County Durham
Cheshire	Devon
Cornwall	Dorset

Derbyshire	Leicestershire
Gloucestershire	Lincolnshire
Greater Manchester	Merseyside
Kent	Northumberland
Lancashire	Shropshire
Northamptonshire	Staffordshire
Oxfordshire	Tyne and Wear
Rutland	Worcestershire
Somerset	Yorkshire
Warwickshire	
Wiltshire	

It was expected that work on Durham and on unitary authorities in the North East would be completed by the end of the current financial year. There had been little publicity to date but it would be best to have an awareness initiative in mid 2012 when much of the work will have been completed. All Local Authority conservation and minerals officers should be made aware of the material and a copy should be kept in environmental records. Users will be asked to provide comments and feedback and, most importantly, new information. It was noted that those who are unfamiliar with GIS would find the atlases and accompanying information difficult to use.

5. Proposed book “England’s Stone Buildings”

There had been recent exchanges of e-mails between Alison Henry, Peter Doyle and Terry Hughes on this. **Alison Henry, Peter Doyle and Terry Hughes to report progress in due course.**

6. Responses to public consultations

a) A response to the draft National Planning Policy Framework had been submitted. Few members of ESF had commented on the draft making it difficult to know whether there was support or indifference. It would be better if, in future, all could give a view even if it is only “OK”. A publicity note had also been drafted but had not been commented on so the time for issuing it had been missed. A key point emphasised in the letter was the absence of safeguarding of natural resources from the key principles.

b) The English Heritage response had emphasised the need for reference to a duty on Local Authorities to consider how to meet the demand for authentic materials. EH was concerned that heritage should be given parity with nature conservation and landscape interests.

c) It was noted that CLG was considering whether existing guidance should be replaced by guidance prepared by external organisations. The point had been made that any such guidance would need to include proper public consultation and to be endorsed by Ministers to give it weight in planning decisions and Courts of Law.

d) Ben Miller at Somerset Council Council had announced a consultation on a minerals strategy. ESF should keep a watching brief. **Brian Marker to check and report on progress.**

7. Planning system

a) The issue of overlaps and inconsistencies of policies in development frameworks was discussed. These included inconsistencies between archaeology, building stone and local distinctiveness aspects. Given the forthcoming round of planning document making, there will

be a need to review policies when the time is right. While model policies are not generally a good idea, there could be merit in drawing up a set for comparative purposes.

b) **David Bent to report on progress of the Peak Park strategy.**

8. Sources of funding

a) The National Heritage Protection Programme has a modest amount of funds available over 4 years to help build the evidence base for policy. A call for proposals had been placed on the English Heritage website. This would provide possibilities for work on the historic environment, landscape and archaeology. This could include some work relevant to minerals. **Members to consider possible projects.**

b) an unsuccessful National Stone Centre application for funding of a building stone collection and a possible re-submission had been reported at the previous meeting. **Ian Thomas to report on progress if necessary.**

9. Global Heritage Stone Initiative

a) Graham Lott had addressed the issues raised by referees on the Portland Stone paper and Ian Thomas would provide some additional comments shortly after which **Graham Lott to send comments to Barry Cooper.**

b) Progress on the Welsh slate paper was not known. **Terry Hughes to report progress when appropriate.**

c) The expected session at the EGU Conference, Vienna 2012, had not materialised.

d) It would be necessary to compile lists of English Stone of global, national and regional significance. **All members are asked to provide a short list of candidate stones within these categories.** Attention was drawn to Purbeck Stone as a nationally important material. Because of its use mainly internally within buildings this did not figure in the Strategic Stone Survey but was important for repair and maintenance.

10. Progress on the ESF website (www.englishstone.org.uk)

a) The link to the Wiki Building Stone Page needs to be made. Some comments have been made but there was some confusion as to whether all e-mails had been taken into account. **Members are asked to check whether comments are needed and, if so, to provide these.**

b) The sustainability page had been completed but there was some uncertainty as to whether it is now "final". **Terry Hughes to advise and Brian Marker to provide a publicity statement if the time is right.**

c) Graham Lott reported that the stone sample collection had now been photographed and placed in the "Geoscenic" part of the BGS website. The samples had been made part of a discrete collection so that they could be extracted for future use at events. However a few samples did not have details of their origin. Brian Marker said that these had been brought to him at the Stone Show by a representative of Johnson's. **Graham Lott to provide scans of these to be sent to Johnson's by Michael Poultney for provision of specimen details. Michael Poultney to seek additional specimens from SFGB members when scans are available online.**

d) Reference at the previous meeting to the RIBA stone library was noted. This should be followed up and more samples should be sought from industry if appropriate. **Eleni Makri to verify whether or not the RIBA is interested in securing specimens.**

e) The Hereford City Trail was now available on the ESF website. Joe McCall would provide publicity to the Geological Society and the Herefordshire and Worcester Earth Heritage Trust. It was suggested that publicity should also go to the Geologists' Association, Context, the Historic Environment Record, the local authority and local sections of the IHBC, RIBA, RICS and SPAB. **Brian Marker to provide draft publicity material.**

f) It was reported that some of the stone show talks had been prepared for the ESF website but work was still needed on some. Brian Marker had contacted Geoffrey Walton but had not had a reply. **He would try again. Tim Yates to complete amendments to his talk.**

g) Alison Henry had approached the National Trust architect at Baddesley Clinton about a possible article but had had no response. **She would try again.**

h) Michael Poultney to ask Jane Buxey whether SFGB CPD material can be placed on the ESF website.

i) Reported that Baroness Andrew's speech to the Living with Minerals 4 Conference had been placed on the ESF website.

11. Articles and papers for magazines and journals

a) The proposal that a paper should be prepared on imports and local supply of stone was discussed. It was felt that it would be better to focus on appropriateness and suitability of stone instead but more examples of the latter would be required. **Members are asked to provide examples.** Problems in specifying specific stone within European procurement regulations were noted. It was felt that local distinctiveness might provide an argument. **Brian Marker agreed to look for information on that.** The focus on inappropriate use of stone would also be of use when approaching the Heritage Lottery Fund on specification issues.

b) In discussion on a possible paper on restrictive planning policies, it was felt that a wider platform would be better spanning inappropriate use of stone, appropriate and consistent planning policies and outcomes of any appeal decisions within the framework of localism. It might also address issues such as "should planners specify materials that are not currently commercially available".

c) Alison Henry reported that space had been secured in the English Heritage Conservation Bulletin for either Autumn 2012 or Spring 2013 for material on the strategic stone study and supply of stone. Space was being sought for an article in Heritage Today. **Alison Henry to report back in due course.**

d) Alison Henry had spoken to Jonathan Taylor of the Building Conservation Directory on the possibility of inserting a 2300 word article on a stone conservation topic such as deterioration of stone and solutions for dealing with that. **Alison Henry would discuss this in more detail in the New Year** with a view to preparing an article by Summer and publication in the Autumn.

e) **Terry Hughes was yet to make contact with the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association.**

f) Peter Doyle had asked for titles of articles that might be placed in Geology Today. **Members to consider and suggest possible titles.**

g) It was noted that a proposed paper for the Country Landowners and Business Association is in abeyance until 2012. **Alison Henry to report progress when this is re-activated.**

12. Conferences

a) The IHBC day school on "significance" to be held in Winchester on 22nd June 2012 might provide an opportunity for a session on materials including stone and thatch. **Alison Henry to investigate and report on progress.**

b) The Ecobuild Conference at Excel on 20th-22nd March, 2012 might provide an opportunity for a stand with the set of stone samples and a map of the sources. **Michael Poultney to investigate whether a stand can be secured and Graham Lott to liaise on transport of the specimens and to provide a map if it can.**

13. Other presentations

a) Jon Humble had checked on All Party Parliamentary Groups. The Heritage Group was not appropriate and building stone interests were marginal for the Archaeology Group. However the wide ranging Historic Environment Forum might be willing to receive a presentation. **Jon Humble to follow up the possibility.** Brian Marker had approached the CBI about the All Party Minerals Group but had not had a reply. **Brian Marker to speak to Bob le Clerc about this.**

b) It was suggested that the ESF should prepare a set of stock 20 minute presentations, which could be largely based on previous talks that could be given to English Heritage local groups or other organisations. Possible topics were: supply and specification; fitness for purpose; selecting stone; and planning issues. **All members to provide Brian Marker and Terry Hughes with a list of other possible topics and of existing presentations that could be easily modified for this purpose. Michael Poultney to discuss with SFGB.**

14. Forthcoming press announcements

Announcements were needed on the sustainability webpage and the Hereford City Trial. **Brian Marker to prepare drafts and to circulate for comment. Members to suggest journals and magazines that should receive these.**

15. Any other business

a) A Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrology special issue on building stone was the subject of a current call for abstracts. **Brian Marker to provide details.**

b) The Hereford and Worcester Earth Heritage Trust had secured HLF funding to raise awareness of the local building stone heritage. A leaflet was circulated at the meeting. A letter of support from ESF was suggested. **Brian Marker to prepare a draft.**

c) It was noted that a European Standard is being developed on characterisation of stone for heritage purposes, relevant to selection of replacement stone, was being developed. **Tim Yates to report on this.**

d) The National Association of Mining History Organisations is to hold research framework seminars, which will be open meetings, to be held on 21st January at the National Coal Mining Museum, Caphouse Colliery, West Yorkshire and on 11th February at Sidcot School, Winscombe, Somerset. The aim is to identify what is known, by type, region and date, of the archaeology of vein mineral, coal and bulk minerals to identify omissions that need to be researched. Information will be posted on the NAMHO website <http://www.vmine.net/namho2012/research.asp>

e) Attention was drawn to a paper in Minerals Planning entitled "Local quarrying must be nurtured" by Deborah Klein of Herefordshire Council. It was suggested that she would be a good local authority contact for the ESF.

16. Date of the next meeting

To be identified after discussion on 2b above.