

ACTION POINTS

For convenience, actions relating to members are as follows:

All members	7, 9, 12, 17
Roger Caisley	1
Alison Henry	9, 10, 16
Terry Hughes	3, 12, 14
Graham Lott	10
Brian Marker	8, 9, 17
Michael Poultney	4, 13, 14
Ian Thomas	7, 10

1. Roger Caisley was thanked for his contributions to the ESF and wished good fortune during his forthcoming retirement. **Roger Caisley** to notify Terry Hughes of the new Planning Officers Society representative.

2. Terry Hughes reported that the proposed meeting with Jon Humble and Chris Wood had not yet taken place. A future date would be sought. **CW TH JH to action**

3. **Liaison with Scotland and Wales** – a contact in CADW was still being sought. **Terry Hughes** to contact either Nick Davis or Judith Alfrey to seek an appropriate person.

4. **Strategic Stone Study** – a meeting between the research team and English Heritage had taken place on 7th September. The GIS had been developed and data had been loaded for Oxfordshire and nearby areas to illustrate the system. It will provide a link to all information contained in the databases. Eight data sets had been delivered (Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Wiltshire, Shropshire) but these were of variable quality. Although generally strong on geological information, some were weaker on buildings and details of quarrying operations. Work on Somerset, Dorset and Devon is in progress. The problem of dealing with information on buildings in major cities was recognised and it was suggested that formally listed buildings should be given priority. For London, it was suggested that the Corporation of London, City of Westminster and Camden Borough Council might already hold much of the information. It was agreed that it would be in the interest of the industry for companies to provide information on use in major building work. **Michael Poultney** agreed to raise this with the SFGB.

5. **Safeguarding of stone resources** – Ian Thomas reported on a study being undertaken by the National Stone Centre for Derbyshire County Council. A key issue is identifying the basis for establishing a hierarchy of importance (e.g. national, regional, local) for resources. Links were drawn with the IAEG Global Stone Initiative discussed later in the meeting. Drawing up a hierarchy requires looking at market areas, within and outside the supply area. The extent to which a proximity policy is adopted is also relevant. The work is leading to a method for systematically assessing the significance of resources. It was suggested that the section on intrinsic value of stone on the ESF website should be compared with the proposed approach. It was indicated that Derbyshire County Council and English Heritage had shown initially favourable reactions to the work but it remained to be completed and signed off. It was felt that the issue should be aired at the Geological Society meeting on 1st October. It was agreed that the discussion (paras 4 and 5 of this note) should be drawn to the attention of Tarnia

McAlester.

6. **Press announcements** – no reports of ESF announcements had been seen.

7. **Website material** – The SFGB Guide to Cleaning Stone had been linked on the site. An approach to the Country Landowners and Business Association site to secure links had been unsuccessful. A link had been secured with the College of Estate Management site.

It was suggested that a link to the BRE Stone List should be secured and that a list of books on conservation of stone buildings should be added to the bibliography section. **Ian Thomas** agreed to contact Eddie Tennant about this.

The list of town trails provided by Ian Thomas had been edited and loaded. **All members** were asked to check the list and notify Terry Hughes of any additions.

All members were asked to continue to provide additions to the bibliography section of the website. It was suggested that a Wikipedia entry for the ESF should be prepared. **All members** should continue providing relevant photos especially of quarries.

8. **ESF outreach** - Terry Hughes reported that an offer to write an article on sourcing stone for the Building Conservation Directory had been declined since the topic had essentially been covered already, but they asked for an article on choosing roofing stone. This had been done and a reference to the Strategic Stone Study included.

Limited examples of inappropriate use of stone had been secured thus **all members** were asked to continue providing examples to Alison Henry. It was agreed that **Brian Marker** should prepare a summary of recent ESF activities and circulate this for comment prior to submission to the SFGB Newsletter, Geoscientist and ICOMOS. Members were asked to suggest other journals etc which should receive the summary.

[Note also that there was an action from the previous meeting to discuss a possible article on the approach to use of imported stone amongst local conservation officers for the Building Conservation Directory. This was not done therefore this item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting].

9. **Draft PPS15** – it was noted that public consultation on the draft was due to end on 4th October 2009. It was agreed that the ESF should comment on the document to point out the importance of building and roofing stone in the built environment and the potential reduction of climate impacts by using local stone. **Alison Henry** agreed to prepare some comments within the next few days and circulate them. **All members** should comment on these within 3 days of receipt after which **Brian Marker** would prepare and circulate a draft submission for members to make final comments on. He would then finalise and submit the comments to CLG.

10. **York Conference Proceedings** – There would be a review in the next issue of Context. It was agreed that free copies should be distributed at the Geological Society meeting on 1st October 2009 together with copies of the Stone Roofing Association Quarrying Guide. **Ian Thomas** to send copies of the Proceedings, and **Alison Henry** copies of the Guide, to **Graham Lott** at BGS Keyworth so that these could be transported to the meeting.

11. **Research funding opportunities** – none reported.

12. **Proposed book in association with the National Trust** – a proposed format was demonstrated and accepted by ESF members as a basis for submitting the proposal to the Trust. It was agreed that the sample material should be completed, including the addition of photographs of quarries, and then circulated by **Terry Hughes** to **all members** for comment.

13. **Ethical trading** – members discussed a note prepared by Ian Thomas and the method to identify ethically sourced material proposed by the Swedish Stone industry. It was agreed that there was no simple way of determining the relative standards of materials from different areas or for “scoring” one site against another. The Swedish check list set out many of the relevant criteria but not necessarily in the right order. One approach might be to combine this material with wider ranging material prepared by BRE. The SFGB was already working on this issue. Members agreed that it is important for the SFGB to make progress with this. **Michael Poultney** agreed to press for action within the SFGB.

14. **IAEG Global Heritage Stone initiative** – amendments to the paper setting out comments on the IAEG proposal were noted by Terry Hughes. These included the need for a definition of stone, emphasis on global significance in terms of trade volume, and the setting of a time frame such as 30 years. Proposed entries on Portland Stone and Welsh Slate were considered. **Michael Poultney** agreed to provide some production statistics and information on planned reserves for Portland Stone. **Terry Hughes** would then amend and submit the material to the IAEG Commission.

15. **BGS meeting on building stone** – the meeting would take place at the Geological Society on 1st October 2009. Registration is through the website www.mineralsUK.com. It is expected that between 70 and 100 people will attend. The meeting would be wide ranging but would not cover the issue of sustainability of building stone in depth. It was agreed that the need for a meeting on sustainability should be considered again at the next meeting of ESF.

16. **Awareness raising** – the York Proceedings had been marketed at the IHBC Summer School but it had not been possible to give an ESF presentation because the programme had already been finalised. Alison Henry reported that the 2010 event would be on excellence in conservation. **Alison** agreed to raise the possibility of an ESF contribution at a forthcoming technical committee meeting and to report back. It was agreed that consideration of links with the RIBA and RICS would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

17. **Building Regulations issues** – it was noted that revision of Part L was due to end on 2nd October 2009. **Members** agreed to send comments to **Brian Marker**, if necessary, so that an ESF response can be sent by him.

18. **Peak Park Core Planning Strategy** – Ian Thomas had spoken to the 2 main operators about the need to make representations on the proposed strategy and had informed Richard Bate. Marshall's had agreed to make representations. Richard Bate had not yet sent a copy of his proforma to Ian Thomas.

19. **Other business** – attention was drawn to the activities of Nick Rymer in undertaking prior extraction of building stone from development sites in Chester and the Wirral.

20. **Dates of the 14th and 15th meetings - Thursday 3rd December 2009 and Tuesday 9th March 2010 at the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.**