

ACTION POINTS

For convenience, actions to be carried out by members are summarised as follows:

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| All members | 3 |
| Alison Henry | 7, 9, 15 |
| Terry Hughes | 7, 9, 14, 15 |
| Brian Marker | 11, 12, 13 |
| Michael Poultney | 9, 14 |
| Ian Thomas | 6, 7 9 |
| Chris Wood | 6, 7 |
| Tim Yates | 9 |

1. Warren Goodall's resignation from the Forum was reported.
2. The note of the previous meeting (ESF10-20) was approved.
3. Arising from the previous meeting, **members are requested to help Ian Thomas with a list of archaeological and conservation courses at universities** so that copies of the Yorkshire Conference Proceedings can be distributed.
4. A note on the Global Stone Forum had been sent to contacts in Scotland (Colin Tennant and Ewan Hyslop), Wales (Tim Palmer) and Northern Ireland (Joanne Curran). Terry Hughes had also provided information on this to Jana Horak to be included in their next newsletter. Arrangements in Historic Scotland for dealing with building stone issues were not yet clear.
5. John Humble updated the Forum on proposed changes to the planning system. Under the new "localism" agenda, minerals had been excluded from Neighbourhood Plans but provisions for pre-application discussions had been retained within that system. A plain English guide to "localism" had been published. DCLG was consulting with stakeholders after which options for change would be put to Ministers. Planning guidance would be substantially reduced. English Heritage was condensing the essentials of guidance on their interests to one page. The fundamental issues were significance of structures and areas and proportionality of dealing with these. It was unfortunate that the recent PPS5 was working well but was likely to be cancelled soon. There was concern about the potential loss of Annex 3 to MPS1. An evaluation of Minerals Policy Statements undertaken for DCLG had now been signed off by Ministers and would be published on 1st March. It was reported that the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund will end on 31st March 2011.
6. The English Heritage (EH) Strategic Stone study was progressing well. Data for 11 counties would be uploaded in time to be demonstrated at the Natural Stone Show. 13 more would be completed by September 2011. Several counties were weaker on information on buildings than on quarrying sites. It was suggested that lists based on the Pevsner county volumes should be sent out to encourage reporting of stone used within these.
7. **The proposed EH/National Trust book would be discussed by Chris Wood and Alison Henry with the EH publications staff on 17 February. Terry Hughes and Ian Thomas should send their "mock up" pages to Alison in advance of that meeting.**
8. A paper on future work plans (ESF11-2) was discussed. Comments made by Michael Poultney, who could not attend the meeting, were taken into account. A number of detailed comments were suggested. Brian Marker would include these in a revised paper to be circulated for the March meeting of the Forum. On the communications plan, it was agreed that this needed to be kept compact because of the limited resources of the Forum. Detailed comments would be taken into account in the March paper. It was agreed that communications should, whenever possible, be issues by the Chairman but, if the Chairman was not available, others should deputise in liaison with other members of the Forum. The ESF "logo" should not be used without group approval.

9. Arrangements for the Natural Stone Show 2011 were discussed. It was noted that Guides to Portland and 120-130 stone samples had been secured by Albion Stone. The company was preparing a display table. EH expected a laptop loaded with strategic stone study information for 11 counties to be available on the stand. Wording for the catalogue entry form was agreed and would be sent to the organisers by Terry Hughes. Attendance would include:

- Alison Henry on 14th (for setting up) and 15th-17th
- Brian Marker on 15th and 16th
- Graham Lott on 16th and 17th
- Tim Yates on part of the 16th and 17th
- Ian Thomas for a limited time on the 17th
- Terry Hughes 16th and 17th

Michael Poultney had very kindly indicated that Albion Stone staff could help with setting up the ESF stand on Monday 14th March. An offer to provide photographs and a map would not need to be taken up because of limited space on the stand.

Subsequent to the meeting the stand which backs onto ours has become available (the exhibitor company has failed) and been offered to EH. Alison is contacting other organisations – SPAB etc - to try to create a conservation area.

It was agreed that:

- **Alison Henry would check on Health and Safety procedures.**
- **Terry Hughes would prepare forms for attendees to express interest in the Forum. These should be sent to Alison Henry for printing.**
- **Ian Thomas would check the number of York Conference Proceedings to see whether sufficient remain to be placed on the stand. Ian, Alison, Michael to liaise on getting them to the stand.**
- **Tim Yates would chair the session on the morning of 17th March**
- **Michael Poultney should send a list of stone samples secured for the stand to Graham Lott who would then arrange for these to be indicated on copy of the BGS building stones map, together with suitable archive photographs, for use on the stand**

10. It was reported that the ESF comments on the DCLG planning fees consultation had been sent in and acknowledged. Concerns had also been raised about planning problems in Dorset. These essentially focussed on the increasing demands for and complexity of information required by the planning authority in support of applications and a lack of proportionality in respect of small planning applications compared with, for example, major quarries. It was agreed that this should be discussed fully at the March 2011 meeting. The ESF could take the issue up if it was not confined to a single MPA area. The Stone Federation Great Britain might wish to collect information from members. The issue might be best addressed within the context of reforms to the planning system and consolidation of planning guidance.

11. A paper on updating of the website (ESF11-4) was welcomed. Joe McCall's Hereford Town Trail draft had been received. **Brian Marker would edit it and then circulate it for comment before it is loaded on the website.** The paper on the discussion session at the 2009 Geological Society meeting had now been approved for publication on the website.

12. On outreach, no progress had been made on seeking a freelance journalist to write on stone issues. **Brian Marker agreed to consult Ted Nield at the Geological Society for suggestions on how to proceed.** The proposed article for the magazine of the Country Land Owners' and Business Association was currently "on hold" because of workloads in English Heritage as was liaison with the Heritage Lottery Fund on inappropriate use of stone. The use of Chinese stone in Exhibition Road has been investigated but little more could be done unless a freelance journalist took an interest in the issues raised. Initial specifications were often amended and it can be difficult to reconstruct changes from files. However it was felt by members that quality of materials could be specified in planning conditions or, perhaps, it would be better to require a closure report setting out what decisions were made and why and

relating key materials related back to specifications. In future, it may be possible to tag individual stones using bar codes.

13. Paper ESF10-8rev 2 dealing with sustainability of building and roofing stone was discussed. Michael Poultney had provided written comments. It was agreed that these should be taken into account. Issue of ethical sourcing should be left to this paper. **Brian Marker would circulate it for final comments** and it would then be placed on the website. Brian Marker had agreed an abstract on this topic with Barry Cooper and submitted it to the European Geological Union meeting in Vienna and a presentation based on the document would be made there. It was noted that the University of Bath had issued an updated version of "Embodied carbon: the inventory of carbon and energy". This would need to be taken into account but some members were sceptical of comparability of data between certain materials. It was also reported that CEN Technical Committee 350 on standards was considering environmental impacts of recycled material including the initial impacts of using the "parent" materials. Technical Committee 351 was also considering tests for recycled materials. These seem to be so numerous as to make recycling impractical.

14. A paper on the Raw Materials Supply Group of the European Commission (ESF11-3) was discussed. It was agreed that the Forum should monitor the activities of that Group and that the paper should be placed on the website. Michael Poultney had suggested that it might be circulated to SFGB members. This was agreed. **TH and MP to action.**

15. On awareness raising initiatives, **Alison Henry agreed to report back on the topic for the 2012 IHBC Conference when it was known. It was also suggested that Terry Hughes should contact the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association to determine whether there are any opportunities for a joint meeting.**

16. Other business:

a) Ian Thomas reported that a conference would be held in Lincoln on 19th -21st May 2011 on skills in conservation construction as part of a series organised by the International Trades Education Network

b) A successful NAMHO meeting had been held to identify gaps in industrial archaeological research on bulk minerals sites and this was currently being written up. A publication on research needs for all extractive industries would appear later and a semi-formal group on quarry heritage issues might also be set up.

c) Graham Lott reported that a guide similar to the German Wikipedia entry on natural stone was being written and that he would circulate to members in due course

d) Terry Hughes reported that two English Heritage films on roofing had been re-edited with new voice-overs and are being streamed from the EH stone roofing page. He will be visiting and filming slate quarries and other roofs.

17. The 19th meeting will take place at the SPAB offices on 30 March 2011 and the 20th meeting will take place on 8th June 2011 at Waterhouse