

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ON MINERALS

Earlier recommendations of the UKMF regarding education were followed up primarily through discussions with the MPA, Geological Society and Earth Science Teachers' Association. There were four threads:

1. commenting on changes to the National Curriculum - I adopted a watching brief but there are no current developments. However I have been informed that the MPA is now supporting an initiative by MPQC (<http://www.mpfutures.co.uk/about-us/>) to provide material in support of the National Curriculum through that website and, initially, with an emphasis on the primary levels. Even so, the Forum might wish to consider whether it should keep in touch with future curriculum developments. That can be achieved through prompting notifications from ESTA.
2. possible provision of a leaflet on construction (including mineral products) by the Geological Society - a draft was sent to them but feedback is awaited. I can pursue this and, if the GS takes this forward, and will send the draft to the UKMF Secretary so that the Forum can comment if appropriate.
3. "rescuing" the content of the Sustainable Aggregates website for possible use by the MPA and BAA - both expressed interest. But there is still a need to clear copyright and access to some data issues with Defra. That is proving difficult because of disengagement by Defra after the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund closed.
4. setting up a website "portal" for teachers providing information on quarries that might be visited by school parties - the Geological Society showed interest in this idea but the message from the industry seems to be that companies prefer to react to individual requests rather than being proactive with information. Therefore this could be a "dead" issue apart, perhaps, from turning the site proforma that I drafted in 2016 into a short note on "what teachers would like to know about sites" but only if that could be helpful to companies when responding to "ad hoc" requests.

Therefore some possible next steps are to:

1. Request ESTA to keep the UKMF Secretary informed of National Curriculum consultations;
2. Promote the carrying forward the construction leaflet;
3. Transfer the content of the Sustainable Aggregates website to the MPA and BAA for possible selective use while trying to get copyright and access issues dealt with by Defra.
4. Either drop the site visit issue or provide a note of the type mentioned above.

These matters should not be left to run on indefinitely.

BR Marker 9th June 2017