

From the President

12 March 2010



Dr N H Allen
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By email to Henry.Allen@senergyworld.com and post

**The
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Dear Henry

The Future of the BGS Core Store, Edinburgh

You wrote on 23 February asking the Geological Society to support the formation of a Steering Group to consider a number of issues concerning the BGS Gilmerton Core Store and the decision to relocate core and cuttings presently held there to Keyworth.

Whatever the imperfections of the consultative exercise conducted by the Tribal Group on behalf of BGS, the history and process by which the Survey has decided to consolidate the onshore and offshore core/cuttings with other archival material at a single location (Keyworth), this Society believes that it is for the BGS to decide on what are essentially operational matters internal to the Survey. Rather, our concern is to ensure that BGS as custodian of this nationally significant dataset is able to clearly demonstrate that the core can be safely and cost effectively moved and that all appropriate steps have been taken to safeguard the integrity of the core in transit. The Director has said in writing that BGS will obtain expert input before moving the collections, that a full risk assessment will be undertaken and appropriate mitigation measures put in place to manage the situation. To inform that process, we have agreed that a representative of this Society's Petroleum Group Committee participates in the Collections Advisory Group and is able to advise Council of the Geological Society as to the BGS' planned measures and safeguards. In addition, we are encouraging BGS to explore the opportunities for enhancing access to the cores through mounting a comprehensive photographic record on the web.

In all of this, although we may regret the manner in which this decision has been made, the Council of the Geological Society has been concerned to support what it perceives to be best

Executive Secretary:
Edmund Nickless BSc CGeol FGS FRSA

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for Earth sciences. This is a matter that has not generated any meaningful direct comment to the Society from its Fellows and it seems that the Society's membership is either not particularly concerned about the matter or is comfortable that the representatives of the Society are acting appropriately in this matter. In this respect, the Council of the Society is not responding to any particular lobbying from Fellows but is following common sense in focussing on the key area of concern, namely minimisation of the risks of damage in transit, by assessing BGS' transport plans associated with a single move to Keyworth, which seems to be the least transport intensive process.

Please be assured that Council will continue to actively monitor events and will not be slow to act in the interests of our Fellows if it becomes necessary.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynne Frostick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely".

Lynne Frostick