

4. Interpretation: Work with other organisations to include accurate and meaningful geodiversity in their interpretation. Highlight available resources through central website.
5. Tourism: Work with VisitScotland, Geoparks and tourism organisations to promote Scotland's geodiversity as the foundation of our scenery; develop better awareness within the industry of existing interpretation and information, and work to develop training opportunities and more resources.
6. Develop the Forum; promote what we do and look for opportunities and funding to do more.

Engagement with other organisations

The Forum continued strong links with key national organisations such as GeoConservation UK (GCUK), Scottish Natural Heritage, the British Geological Survey and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS). These organisations have nominated representatives on the Forum Executive and the Charter Working Group, which helps facilitate good communication between them and support from them.

Our strong association with GCUK, which is chaired by the Forum's vice-chair Mike Browne, provides a useful link with the rest of the UK geoconservation network and the English Geodiversity Forum, established in 2013. There was some concern about the Geological Society of London's replacement of the Geoconservation Commission with a new Geoconservation Committee, which does not have representation from statutory bodies such as Scottish Natural Heritage. The Forum accepted an invitation to join the new committee, and will work with the Society on new initiatives including the status of Geological Conservation Review sites in Scotland.

RSGS has continued to coordinate a campaign highlighting the demise of geology qualifications in Scotland, with some success. The society, with input from the Forum, organised a very successful student conference in March 2013 that brought Higher Geology students from across Scotland together for the first time, interacting in workshops, debates and a fieldtrip with geologists from universities and industry. The Bedrock Walk, a five-day journey across the Highlands in July organised by the RSGS, was another successful collaborative venture, engaging with the landscape and inspiring new ways of thinking.

Planning and Biodiversity - consultations and engagement

The Forum responded to two major Scottish Government consultations, on Scottish Planning Policy and National Planning Framework 3; and on the National Marine Plan and proposed Marine Protected Areas network. Both these consultations took substantial amounts of time to absorb and respond to the contents of hundreds of pages of text. We were able to highlight positives in both consultations, in particular in the recognition of the importance of seabed geodiversity in the proposed MPA network. As a result of hard work by GeoConservation UK, the Forum and other organisations going back many years, there is increased recognition of the importance and role of geodiversity, but it still remains undervalued.

Following our engagement with the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity in 2012, the Forum were invited to be represented on the Strategy Habitats & Species Group, one of 9 committees and groups working on governance, delivery and key topic areas. There are good opportunities here for us to highlight the role of geodiversity in ecosystems and in supporting biodiversity.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee, elected at the AGM on 2 March 2013, is composed of Angus Miller, chair; Mike Browne, vice-chair; Linda Mckee, treasurer; Margaret Greene, membership secretary and ordinary members Seonaid Leishman, Sarah Stewart, Simon Howard, Beverly Bergman, Simon Cuthbert, John Gordon and Andrew McMillan. Organisations are represented by Colin Macfadyen (SNH) and Joyce Gilbert (Royal Scottish Geographical Society). Neil Clark was coopted on to the Committee in November 2013. The post of Secretary remained vacant, following the resignation of Mihaela Newton at the AGM. The committee conducted most of its business by email, and met three times during the year including a full-day session in October.

Accounts summary

Opening balance 31/12/2012	£1045.72
Income 2013	
SNH support for 2012 conference	£800.00
Donations for Charter reprint	£630.00
Misc income, including £50 bank compensation	£87.76
Total income	£1517.76
Expenditure 2013	
Office bearers expenses	£38.29
2012 conference venue, etc	£1160.00
Printing - charter reprint and newsletter	£1076.00
Total expenditure	£2274.29
Balance 31/12/2013	£289.19