



The  
Geological  
Society

## Geological Society Contaminated Land Specialist Group Annual Report 2018

### Our committee

Full details of the current committee are published on our webpage:

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/contamland>

### Summary of conference & events

We've had another successful 12 months as we celebrated our second year since forming the group in 2017.

#### February

We supported the British Geological Survey's 'Geoscience and Brownfield' workshops which were held in London, Birmingham and Leeds. The purpose of these workshops was to:

- understand and appreciate how geoscience is currently used in brownfield redevelopment projects;
- recognise the limitations geoscience has in risk-based management of the sub-surface and how these may be overcome by collaborative working; and
- participate in a discussion on how NERC and its replacement, UKRI, might respond to these challenges

#### April

We held a joint meeting with the Hydrogeological Group. This was a two-day conference in London on the Hydrogeology of the Chalk covering current practice and future challenges on the characterisation and management of Chalk aquifers in the UK and elsewhere. Day one focussed on chalk groundwater resources, day two focussed on chalk groundwater quality. Our Chair, Jane Dottridge, gave a keynote speech on contaminant pathways as part of the programme.

We also attended the SAGTA / Environment Agency collaborative workshop to discuss the Environment Agency 'guiding principles' guidance for dealing with land contamination.

#### June

The National Groundwater Association's McEllhiney lecture series visit the UK which we co-hosted with the Hydrogeological Group and Groundwater Modeller's Forum. The McEllhiney lecture this year was on 'electrical hydrogeology' by Dr Todd Halihan and the event also included talks on karst processes, fracture network modelling and practical issues related to karst hydrogeology.

Also, in June, 110 delegates attended our 'How to be a Better Risk Assessor' joint conference held with SoBRA and RemSoc in London. This event focussed on providing early career professionals with the tools to be a better brownfield risk assessor. The day introduced delegates to the common risk assessment tools and those parameters key to driving model projections, enabling focused field investigations.

#### July

Building on their success from organising the Janet Watson flagship conference in 2017 our early careers sub-committee hosted a conference in Manchester University titled 'Contaminated Land and Groundwater: Resources, past and future'. 130 delegates attended the event which was sponsored by ALS, Ambisense, Enitial and Regenesis.



In addition to the programme of lectures the group arranged three interactive workshops covering BGS geoscience tools, waste classification and sampling groundwater at contaminated sites.

The event also included an early career poster competition. We received a high number of entries prior to the conference which were shortlisted to four finalists to display at the event, and which were voted on by the delegates.



Congratulations to Clare Lucas who works for Arup, pictured far left, for her excellent poster on the use of 3D digital models for characterisation of a former landfill site and contamination assessment of a key groundwater.

Feedback following the meeting has been extremely positive and we'll be looking to build on the success of this event in 2019, particularly by holding more events outside of London.

For more information on this event please read the [blog post on the Geological Society website](#)

### September

Anna Hitchmough gave a charterhip focussed talk to the Yorkshire Contaminated Land Forum (YCLF) as part of their event titled 'Professional development: A pathway from graduate to Suitably Qualified Person'. This was a well-attended event and highlights our desire to continue developing our links with the regional contaminated land forums in the UK.

### November

Paul Nathanail from our committee was invited to speak at the Geology for Global Development conference in London. The theme of this year's meeting was 'Water and Sustainable Development'. [The conference report is available online](#)

We held our AGM on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November via skype.



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### Other items to note

We've continued attending meetings of the national brownfield forum, with our group represented by Paul Nathanail. The minutes from these meetings are available online:

<https://www.claire.co.uk/projects-and-initiatives/land-forum>

In May we published updated chartership guidance to assist those land contamination professionals applying for Chartered Geological and Chartered Scientist status: [Chartership guidance notes for land contamination professionals](#)

We provided feedback on government consultations including to the Geospatial Commission call for evidence on the UK National Geospatial strategy.

We've continued liaising with the regional groups to seek opportunity to co-badge meetings and assist each other in organising events covering land contamination topics.

### Finances

Our accounts are managed centrally at Burlington House and during 2018 were:

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Opening balance 1 October 2017          | <b>£1522.80</b> |
| Income from Manchester conference:      |                 |
| Sponsorship                             | £1670.00        |
| Delegate fees                           | £8386.00        |
| Expenditure from Manchester conference: |                 |
| Venue hire                              | -£5647.76       |
| Expenses                                | -£547.20        |
| Balance remaining at 30 September 2018  | <b>£5383.84</b> |

Our main planned expenditure during 2019 will be hosting a conference on NAPLs, which is to be held in Birmingham in November 2019.

### Election to committee

During 2017, Chris Eccles, Sara Hegewald and Elspeth Harris stepped down from the committee. We thank them for their efforts during the establishment of the group

A call for volunteers was circulated in April 2018 and over 20 requests to join the committee were received. Four new committee members were co-opted and formally elected at our AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018. They are:

- Emma Small
- Becky Corps
- Paul Dennis
- Abigail Brooks (early career rep)



### **Plans for 2019**

The Geological Society's theme for 2019 is 'Year of Carbon'. As part of this we have so far planned:

- A joint event with the Hydrogeological Group in May 2019 on unconsolidated/superficial deposit aquifers
- A joint event with the Engineering Group in June/July 2019
- A conference on NAPLs to be held in Birmingham in November 2019
- Our Early Career committee are leading on two types of event: evening professional networking events and university careers events. Further details will be circulated in early 2019
- Field trips to historic gasworks in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland

We will also continue working with other groups and organisations including the regional groups, regional contaminated land forums and other professional bodies to develop events and other initiatives to promote the profession.

**Dave Jones**  
**Contaminated Land Specialist Group Secretary**  
**December 2018**