

# Origins of the British Geological Survey



## Board of Ordnance Ordnance Survey (1791)

Ordnance Trigonometrical Survey

Regional developments

### England & Wales

First formal mapping

1832 De la Beche offers to map Cornwall & Devon

survey extends to all of England

1835 Ordnance Geological Survey

- Board of Ordnance agrees to a geological survey of the English counties
- De La Beche becomes full-time employee of the OS

### Scotland

1814 John MacCulloch appointed Geologist to the Ordnance Trigonometrical Survey

### Survey

C. 1832 MacCulloch completes broad survey of Scotland

### Ireland

1824 Topographical Survey of Ireland launched  
Started collecting geological specimens

1826 J.W. Pringle appointed Superintendent of the Geological Survey of Ireland (Pre-dates England by nine years)

Autumn 1828-18th January 1830  
No geological surveying

1830 Ordnance Survey Geological Branch created  
Geological surveying resumed

1832 Portlock appointed Geologist  
Geological surveying resumed



An Act to facilitate the Completion of a Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland, under the Direction of the First Commissioner for the Time being of Her Majesty's Woods and Works. [31st July 1845.]

## Geological Survey of Great Britain & Ireland

- 1839 Mining Records Office
- 1841 Museum of Economic Geology
- Metropolitan School of Science Applied to Mining and the Arts

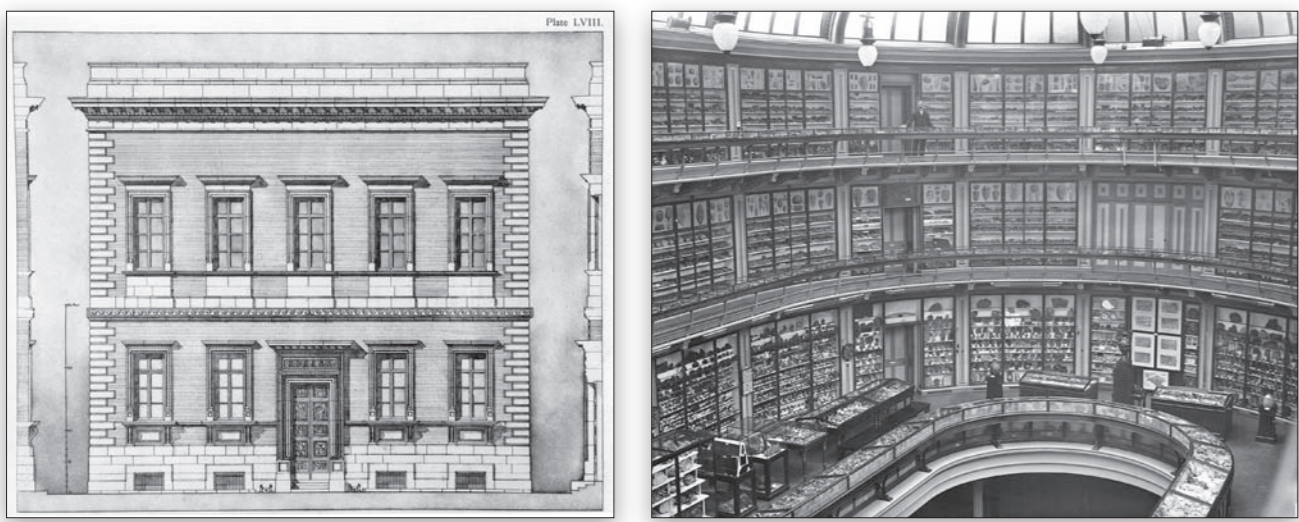
- To Dept. of Agriculture & Technical Instruction for Ireland
- To Mines Department Home Office
- School of Mines to Imperial College

1905 Geological Survey of Ireland  
(No longer part of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom)

1883 Mining Record Office

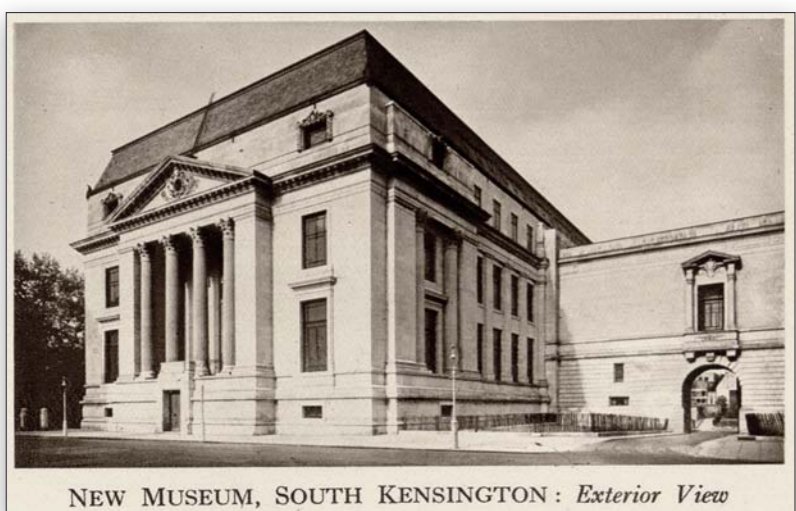
1872 Royal School of Mines

## 1905 Geological Survey of Great Britain



Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street, London, 1851.

Museum of Practical Geology (1851) becomes Geological Museum (1935)



NEW MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON: Exterior View



NEW MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON: Interior View  
Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London, 1933.



Views from the tower crane of the William Smith Building construction.

separates from GSGB and Ireland

becomes

becomes component of

## 1965 Institute of Geological Sciences

1965 Science and Technology Act

Geological Museum passes to (1984)

Natural History Museum

renamed

## 1984 British Geological Survey



**British Geological Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Overseas  
1883 Imperial Institute  
separate organisation established

Imperial Institute - 1925 back to

division of Imperial Institute

Imperial Institute Overseas Division

becomes

1947 Colonial Geological Survey

renamed

1957 Overseas Geological Survey

becomes part of

part of - Global Seismology (IGS)

1967 transfer to IGS

1968 transfer to IGS

Transfer of Geomag Observatories Eskdalemuir and Lerwick

1910-1967 Meteorological Office

Second Observatory-Lerwick (1919-1922)

1967 Transfer to IGS

Geomagnetism part of Royal Observatory

split

1956 Observatory to Hartland

1924 Observatory to Abinger

observatory moves

1838 Magnetic Observatory, Greenwich

1818 'Magnetic House'

Geomag observatory created

1680 Flamsteed measures magnetic declination

event

1675 Royal Greenwich Observatory Geomagnetism

continues -> Royal Observatory Astronomy

12<sup>th</sup> June 1919  
Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau

renamed

1957 Commonwealth Institute

Imperial Institute, South Kensington, London.



Imperial Institute, South Kensington, London.

Seismology

University of Edinburgh

Seismological Unit

International Seismological Centre

Royal Observatory Edinburgh

Seismological Unit

1967 transfer to IGS

1968 transfer to IGS

Meteorological Office Eskdalemuir (atomic weapons testing)

transfer to

1900 to 1910

National Physical Laboratory Observatory

Department Observatory moves from Kew to Eskdalemuir (1908)

transfer to

1871-1900

Kew Committee of the Royal Society

transfer to

1842-1871

Kew Observatory (British Association)

Geomagnetism