



Dear Student

Thank you for using the Ask About Geology service!

We would like to use this space to help you use the service to its best effect and to make BGS information as accessible as possible. We would also like to give a few basic hints to those of you who are new to geology.

General guidelines

It is outside the scope of the Ask About Geology service to answer questions that require lengthy research or to provide answers to assignment questions. We are not a substitute for library study or consultation with your tutor or lecturer. However, we would encourage you to ask a specific question and include as many details as possible. This will assist us in directing and answering your question as swiftly as possible.

Where might you find information out for yourself?

If you are interested in a particular subject then we would recommend you carry out some general research before using Ask About Geology. Your local and university libraries should have textbooks on geology, environmental science, rocks and minerals and other relevant subjects.

You can also search the Internet using search engines such as www.google.co.uk and Google Scholar www.scholar.google.com. Please be wary of inaccurate websites! See below for some suggested links.

If you would like to purchase books direct then you can search the BGS bookshop on line www.geologyshop.com or you could try some online bookshops that often have second-hand textbooks for sale.

For a more advanced search of the current research on a particular topic you can search the BGS library catalogue (Geolib) www.geolib.bgs.ac.uk

The BGS library is not a lending library but you are welcome to visit by appointment and inspect the references. There are links on our library catalogue to other libraries such as the Geological Society, the British Library and the Bodleian Library. Most libraries will have their own catalogues that you can also search.



Accessing BGS information

The geology of a particular area can be investigated at a simple level via the GeolIndex which is on our website at www.bgs.ac.uk/geolindex. You will need to allow 'pop-ups' for the facility to work. Upon entering the GeolIndex select 'Geology' as your theme and then zoom into the area of interest. Once at an



appropriate scale, superficial and bedrock geology will become bold on the left-hand side so you can select these whilst also selecting geology from the drop down current query layer. Then press 're-draw map' and the geology will appear. If you then select the 'I' button on the right-hand side and then click on the section of geology you're interested in it will bring up a legend for you.

The geology on the GeolIndex is at quite a small scale so for better detail you may like to purchase a 1:50 000 map of the area for £12.00 and the associated memoirs for about £20.00 to £40.00 and sheet explanations for about £10.00. Please check our online shop as there may be some other publications of interest to you.

Some of our maps may of course be available from your university library so it is worth checking with them before purchasing your own.

For more site specific geology you may like to order some historical borehole logs from the area. As a student you will be entitled to ten logs free of charge upon the completion of our academic waiver form.

Please contact our Enquiries department for details: enquiries@bgs.ac.uk.

For coverage and quotes for digital data please contact our Enquiries department at enquiries@bgs.ac.uk

For detailed information about different rock types in the UK you may like to access our Lexicon of named rock units: www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon_intro.html



Other data that the BGS holds can be explored via www.bgs.ac.uk/Data

Other data

Information about soils in the UK is held by the National Soil Resources Institute at www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk or 01525 863263

Topographic maps can be purchased from the Ordnance Survey at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

Information about the environment such as flooding can be sought from the Environment Agency 08708 506506 or www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Overseas geology

The BGS reference library holds some overseas geological maps and reports that are available for inspection by appointment.

Library enquiries (libuser@bgs.ac.uk or 0115 9363205) can advise you on these holdings. If you wish to purchase an overseas geological map you can search the world map register index (www.bgs.ac.uk/reference/worldmaps/worldvt.html) or contact sales@bgs.ac.uk with your enquiry. If you can't find the map you want you could try **Geopubs** on 01643 709001



For information about careers in geology and vacancies within BGS please visit our web page www.bgs.ac.uk/vacancies

Further reading

For a comprehensive introduction to geology we would recommend 'Understanding Earth' by Frank Press and Raymond Siever (ISBN 0 7167 28362) The Open University produces a series of Earth Science textbooks which can be purchased from its website: www.ouw.co.uk. S260 *Geology*, S267 *How the Earth Works* and S339 *Understanding the Continents* modules, are especially relevant. For basic definitions, a geology dictionary can be consulted such as the 'Penguin Dictionary of Geology' by Philip Kearey (ISBN 0 14 0512772).

Useful web links

The Geological Society of London

www.geolsoc.org.uk

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

www.nerc.ac.uk

British Antarctic Survey

www.antarctica.ac.uk

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

www.ceh.ac.uk

Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory

www.pol.ac.uk

The Environment Agency

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

www.defra.gov.uk

The United States Geological Survey (USGS)

www.usgs.gov

The Geologists Association

www.geologist.demon.co.uk

For more general information you may find the following links helpful

The Geology of Britain

www.soton.ac.uk/~imw/Geology-Britain.htm

Plate tectonics over Earth's history

www.scotese.com

Volcano World

volcano.und.nodak.edu

BBC science and nature pages

www.bbc.co.uk/sn

Natural History Museum

www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/earth

Volcano page from Encarta

www.encyclopedia.msn.com/encyclopedia_761570122/Volcano.html

Earthquake page from Encarta

www.encyclopedia.msn.com/encyclopedia_761571674/Earthquake.html

Plate tectonics

www.earth.leeds.ac.uk/dynamicearth

Volcanoes in the UK

www.geologyshop.co.uk/ukvolc.htm

Useful journals and magazines

Earthwise magazine (BGS)

www.bgs.ac.uk/earthwise

Planet Earth magazine (NERC)

www.nerc.ac.uk/publications/planetearth

Geology

www.geosociety.org/pubs/geology.htm

Geoscientist

www.geolsoc.org.uk

Journal of the Geological Society

www.ingentaconnect.com/content/geol/jgs

Geology Today

www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0266-6979&site=1

Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology

www.ingentaconnect.com/content/geol/qjeg

Petroleum Geoscience

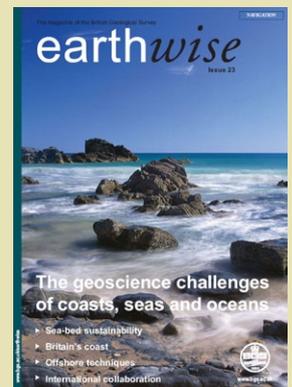
www.ingentaconnect.com/content/geol/pg

Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis

www.ingentaconnect.com/content/geol/geea

Scottish Journal of Geology

www.ingentaconnect.com/content/geol/sjg



Graham Bell, British Geological Survey ©NERC

For a much more comprehensive list please consult a library catalogue.