

PICTURE RELEASE

17th April 2010

Aerial pictures of the Icelandic volcanic eruption

Aerial photographs of the ash plume from the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland have been released by the British Geological Survey (BGS). British geologists took the pictures whilst on the last flight from Reykjavik to Glasgow on Friday 16th April 2010 before UK airspace was closed again.

British geologists working on a research project in Iceland were some of the last people to arrive home yesterday before the UK air space was closed again.

Jeremy Everest, Tom Bradwell, Tom Shanahan and Mike Raines from the BGS (along with Laura Hobbs from Lancaster University) managed to get one of the only flights out of Iceland to Glasgow yesterday, before UK airspace was totally shut down. The British team were there carrying out research as part of the [4D Monitoring of Glacier Evolution](#) project, which started last year.



Volcanic ash from Eyjafjallajökull is clearly seen from the Icelandair flight on 16th April
(Courtesy of the British Geological Survey © NERC)

Jeremy Everest, Leader of the 4D monitoring of Glacier Evolution project, said:

“After successfully upgrading the BGS weather station at Oraefajokull and completing passive seismic surveying around the margins of the Vatnajokull glaciers, all staff returned to the UK safe and well. This followed an epic 17 hour drive round the whole of Iceland to get back to Reykjavik, as our normal direct route back had been cut off by the eruption at Eyjafjallajökull!

Even though we were about 200km away whilst doing our research, we were able to see the eruption plume, but our best views were from the Icelandair plane on the way home.”

** End **



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Notes for Editors

Further information on the Icelandic eruption available from the BGS website:

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/research/highlights/icelandic_ash.html?src=sfb

Image captions for available pictures:

Photo DSCF9275 (taken by Tom Bradwell)

Volcanic ash, from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland, is currently shrouding the whole of Northern Europe. These dramatic pictures were taken yesterday evening by British Geological Survey scientists on board the last flight to leave Iceland (Friday, 1830 BST). Flying at around 30,000 feet, the Icelandair flight FI450 skirted the edge of the vast grey ash cloud (to the right of the jet engine) offering a rare glimpse of the cause of the air-travel disruption in Europe. The flight landed safely in Glasgow at 2130 – just a few hours before the total restriction of all flights over UK airspace came into force.

Photos DSC 0161, 0164, 0166 (taken by Jeremy Everest)

These dramatic pictures were taken yesterday evening by British Geological Survey scientists on board the last flight to leave Iceland (Friday, 1830 GMT). The enormous plume of hot volcanic ash and gas, reaching a height of 70,000 feet, can be clearly seen erupting from the ice-capped Eyjafjallajökull volcano. The volcano continues to erupt violently causing major disruption to all air travel in Europe.

These photographs are available from:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=414015&id=235488755117>

(Higher resolution images available on request).

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Courtesy of the British Geological Survey © NERC

The British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS), a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users. The BGS maintains and develops the nation's understanding of its geology to improve policy making, enhance national wealth and reduce risk. It also collaborates with the national and international scientific community in carrying out research in strategic areas, including energy and natural resources, our vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and our general knowledge of the Earth system. More about the BGS can be found at www.bgs.ac.uk.