

PRESS RELEASE

22nd September 2011

All Aboard at the British Geological Survey's Open Day

The British Geological Survey's Scottish headquarters at Murchison House, Edinburgh is holding its annual open day on Saturday 24th September 2011. It will be open to the public from 10am to 5pm to showcase its science as part of this year's Scottish Geology Festival and Edinburgh's Doors Open Day. Amongst the exhibits will be the BGS's survey vessel the *White Ribbon*.

The name *White Ribbon* refers to the data gap within the coastal zone where "offshore" data collection has been difficult. The vessel is being used to fill this gap and also survey loch's and lake's to increase our understanding of what lies beneath the waves. *White Ribbon* has already been used on many successful surveys including the Firth of Clyde and the Firth of Forth.



The BGS Survey Vessel *White Ribbon* BGS©NERC

During the Open Day, the BGS will be packed with demonstrations, experiments and displays of its work at home and abroad, with lots of hands-on activities for even the youngest hands. Visitors will be able to pan for gold, make their own earthquake, examine precious minerals and fossils, and learn about Scottish geology and the rocks used in Edinburgh's buildings. Many aspects of Earth Science will be demonstrated from what's beneath our feet to space weather and the Northern Lights. Visitors will learn how geologists find natural resources such as oil, water, sand and gravel and see exciting volcano demonstrations.

A programme of illustrated talks will run all day describing recent work by BGS scientists, including the recent installation of a new magnetic observatory in South Georgia, the risks of space weather, a geological history of Edinburgh through the ages, carbon capture and storage, monitoring glacial evolution in Iceland and whether the frequency of earthquakes is on the rise.

Other highlights include displays of Scottish gold, how BGS is helping to fight climate change by researching carbon capture and storage and why we are monitoring seismic and glacial movement in Iceland.

Ends



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Notes for Editors

The BGS Open Day will take place in Edinburgh at the British Geological Survey, Murchison House, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3LA on Saturday 24th September and is open to the general public from 10.00 to 17.00.

BGS Open Day 2011 flyer: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/DIARY/OpenDay2011.pdf>

For further information <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/newsAndEvents/events.html>

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.