



## PRESS RELEASE

17<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### Inspiring the geologists of the future

**Learning about how the earth works is made fun at a hands-on event at the British Geological Survey from 17-19<sup>th</sup> March. Children discover 'gold' and learn about dinosaurs, earthquakes and volcanoes.**

To mark National Science & Engineering Week, the British Geological Survey (BGS) is running a **'Fossil and Rock Show'** at its headquarters in Keyworth, Nottinghamshire (17 to 19 March). Nearly a thousand children from primary schools across the East Midlands are expected; they will learn to pan for gold, record their own earthquake, 'tiptoe through time' with spectacular fossils from the BGS collections and have fun with other hands-on activities and demonstrations.

The BGS is a centre for the study of earthquakes around the globe. Our scientists will demonstrate to primary school children how earthquakes are recorded. They can get involved by making their own 'earthquake' and take away a 'seismic trace' like those recorded from the devastating recent earthquakes of Haiti and Chile.

Watch the video to see how much the children enjoyed this event in 2008:  
[www.bgs.ac.uk/education/events.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/education/events.html)

Back by popular demand, family groups will be able to join the **'Fossil Fun'** event at BGS on **Saturday 20 March** (10am to 4pm). Rockwatch, the club for young geologists, will help bring the past to life with their own brand of dinosaur-based fun. Booking is via the BGS website:  
[www.bgs.ac.uk/education/rockwatch/home.cfm](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/education/rockwatch/home.cfm)

Dr David Bailey, Head of Outreach at the BGS said:

"The BGS works to bring earth science alive for people of all ages. We are very excited to open our doors during National Science and Engineering Week and hope everyone who visits will be encouraged to learn more about geology and science in general. Perhaps some of the young people taking part will be inspired to become the geologists of the future.

Geology is central to our lives; it affects the water we drink, the dwellings we live in, the fuel for our vehicles and even the jewellery we wear. Our Science Week activities are a fun way of generating understanding of natural resources among schools and the general public. It is particularly important for young people to understand that the way in which we manage our environment and exploit our resources will have consequences for generations to come."

**\*Ends\***

**For further details or to arrange media interviews please contact:**

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**Notes for Editors**

Media day will be 10am to 2pm on Thursday 18th March when you are invited to send a reporter/ TV crew/ photographer along to the BGS event.

Interviewees:

- Dr. David Bailey, Head of Outreach, British Geological Survey
- Dr. Ted Harris, Deputy Head of Outreach, British Geological Survey

For additional information go to: [www.bgs.ac.uk/education/events.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/education/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](http://www.bgs.ac.uk).

**National Science and Engineering Week: 12 - 21 March 2010**

National Science and Engineering Week (NSEW) is a ten day celebration of science, engineering and technology which will run from the **12 - 21 March 2010**. In previous years around 1.4 million people attended over 3,500 events across the UK.

National Science and Engineering Week is coordinated by the British Science Association, funded by DIUS (Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills), in partnership with the ETB (Engineering Technology Board) and is made possible by the hard work and effort of hundreds of event organisers around the country.

For further information: <http://www.britishscienceassociation.org/web/nsew/>