



# INFORMATION RELEASE

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## **The British Geological Survey in Scotland has moved!**

**The British Geological Survey (BGS) in Scotland has moved! BGS Scotland is now based at The Lyell Centre, on the Heriot-Watt university campus in Edinburgh. Two major new buildings provide large open plan offices for staff, a major new marine operation and engineering facility, the national collection of Scottish rocks and fossils together with laboratories and workshops to support the science programmes.**



The British Geological Surveys new home - The Lyell Centre

Key research programmes based in Scotland include:

- **Scotland's onshore geological survey** – supporting urban and rural Scotland. Researching mineral resources and building stones to geothermal energy and landslides and other geohazards
- Petroleum Geoscience – UK and international basin analysis research in conjunction with the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA), overseas governments and the oil industry
- Marine Geology – UK national marine mapping programme (support for marine industries, marine ecosystems, coastal change) and leading the European contribution to the Integrated Ocean Discovery Program (IODP)
- Development of technologies for marine exploration
- Groundwater in Scotland and an international aid programme
- Global Seismology – earthquake risk and hazard in the UK and worldwide
- Volcanic hazards – global and local impacts of eruptions
- Geomagnetic research – the impact of the solar wind and a global real-time magnetic model



The Lyell Centre Support Building – housing the BGS Marine Facility.

Construction of the Lyell Centre was funded by the British Geological Survey (BGS), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Heriot-Watt University and Scottish Funding Council (SFC). It is a global centre of excellence based on research synergies and collaboration. The **emphasis of the Centre's work will be at the intersection of the earth and marine sciences.** Research in the Lyell Centre will play a key role in finding pragmatic solutions and providing evidence-based informed and reliable opinions in areas of energy supply, environmental impact and global climate change, where inputs have traditionally been polarised. Its work will be both socially and industrially relevant at national and international scales.

Professor John Ludden, Executive Director of **the BGS**, said "I see the move to the Lyell Centre as a way of consolidating and enhancing the BGS science strength in Scotland through co-investment with a technology focused university."

More information on BGS Scotland and The Lyell Centre can be found [here](#).

**\*Ends\***



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**Notes for Editors**

The following are available for interview:

- Professor John Ludden, British Geological Survey
- Bob Gatliff, British Geological Survey

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

Photographs are available from our ftp server:  
<ftp://ftp.bgs.ac.uk/pubload/bgspress/LyellCentre/>

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**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).

**The Natural Environment Research Council**

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is the UK's main agency for funding and managing world-class research, training and knowledge exchange in the environmental sciences. It coordinates some of the world's most exciting research projects, tackling major issues such as climate change, food security, environmental influences on human health, the genetic make-up of life on earth, and much more. NERC receives around £300 million a year from the government's science budget, which it uses to fund research and training in universities and its own research centres. [www.nerc.ac.uk](http://www.nerc.ac.uk)