



MEDIA RELEASE

1st December 2016

Chancellor of the Exchequer visits The British Geological Survey in Scotland.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, visited The British Geological Survey (BGS) at The Lyell Centre in Edinburgh today as part of his visit to Scotland. The visit, which followed an extra £800 million infrastructure funding for the Scottish Government, took part in the brand new Lyell Centre Support building which houses the state of the art Rock Drill 2 (RD2).

RD2 is a subsea robotic drilling system that has been designed, built and operated by the BGS Marine Operations and Engineering team at The Lyell Centre. This drill is one of a suite of subsea sampling equipment that BGS operate, however the RD2 stands out as world leading innovation.



Left to right: Dr Tracy Shimmield & Michael Wilson, BGS with Philip Hammond

Professor John Ludden, Executive Director for BGS, said:

“Great to talk to the Chancellor about the BGS role in low carbon energy future and development of new ground-breaking technology”.



Dr Tracy Shimmield, co-director of the Lyell Centre said:

"Innovation is at the heart of the Lyell Centre and it was a great opportunity to show the Chancellor the RD2 drill that was designed and built here in Scotland".

Ends

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Notes for Editors

The following are available for interview:

- Professor John Ludden, British Geological Survey
- Dr Tracy Shimmield, British Geological Survey

For additional information go to: www.bgs.ac.uk

Photographs are available from our ftp server:

<ftp://ftp.bgs.ac.uk/pubload/bgspress/PhilipHammond>

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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.

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