PRESS RELEASE

17th October 2014

New course to create Next Generation Geoscientists

A unique new degree in Environmental Geoscience has been launched at The University of Nottingham in collaboration with the world-renowned British Geological Survey.

The new course has welcomed its first students who will benefit from the expertise of staff from the world's oldest national geological survey and the United Kingdom's premier centre for earth science information and expertise as well as internationally renowned academics in one of the leading Geography departments in the country.

21st century environmental geoscience is about people and their interaction with the environment. How do people use natural resources such as building materials, groundwater, oil and gas, and how can the environmental and social impact of this use be managed? These are issues which geoscientists have been grappling with for a long time, so this degree is an exciting opportunity for students to draw on natural and social science expertise in becoming the next generation of environmental geoscience professionals.

The University’s Professor of Engineering Geology, Paul Nathanail, said: "I am excited about this new degree; it fills a gap in University provision and will provide graduates with the skills and knowledge to help protect and manage our fragile home. I am particularly looking forward to working with colleagues from the BGS and leading the final year field trip to Cyprus.”

Professor Mike Stephenson, BGS Director of Science & Technology said: “This is a fantastic opportunity for the BGS to contribute to the development of the next generation of geoscientists who will be responsible for driving forward research and problem-solving in applied geoscience. There is a pressing need to train experts that are equipped to understand and deal with big societal challenges such as energy and water resource needs and environmental hazards. This new degree course will combine knowledge, expertise and resources from the BGS and the University to equip future scientists to meet these fundamentally important environmental geoscience challenges.”

This degree programme builds on recent collaborations between The University of Nottingham and the British Geological Survey. More information on the partnership can be found here: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/pressreleases/2014/february/cementing-a-partnership-between-nottingham-and-the-british-geological-survey.aspx

The details of the new degree can be found here: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/courses/geography/environmental-geoscience-bsc.aspx

This week is The Geological Society's Earth Science Week which offers an extensive programme of events for anyone interested in this field.

*Ends*
For further course details please contact:

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http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy/courses/geography/environmental-geoscience-bsc.aspx

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Notes for Editors

The following are available for interview:

•  Professor Colin Thorne, University of Nottingham

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

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