PRESS RELEASE

13th December 2019

Professor Melanie Leng receives MBE at Buckingham Palace

Professor Melanie Leng, a Chief Scientist at the British Geological Survey (BGS), has been awarded an MBE by HRH Prince Charles at an investiture held at Buckingham Palace.

Melanie was awarded the MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List 2019 and received the honour in recognition of her outstanding services to environmental research.

She is the Chief Scientist for Environmental Change, Adaptation and Resilience at the BGS in Keyworth.

Melanie has dedicated her career to working collaboratively with UK higher education institutes and international partners to deliver research, develop methods and train the next generation of geoscientists.

Speaking about her achievement, Melanie said: “It was such an incredible day. It was a privilege to meet Prince Charles and staff at the Palace, and they were very interested in my research on environmental change and human impact. I’m really honoured to have been nominated for the award by my colleagues.”

In addition to her main role at BGS, Melanie is Director for the Centre for Environmental Geochemistry, a collaboration between BGS and the University of Nottingham. She also leads the National Environmental Isotope Facility that includes laboratories across the UK.

Her work at the BGS now encompasses its new Science Strategy, Gateway to the Earth, which sets out to help achieve United Nations Strategic Development Goals, those such as clean water and sanitation, sustainable cities and communities and climate action.

She added: “Climate change is forcing the increasing population to adapt to a warmer world, severe weather conditions and is putting enormous pressures on our resources.

“My current challenge is to lead research on developing ways we can adapt to environmental change and seeking to reduce the vulnerability of human infrastructure and life. These goals are especially important in developing countries, which will bear the brunt of our climate emergency.”

The British Geological Survey today congratulated Melanie for her hard work, dedication and years of service in environmental change science.

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For further details or to arrange media interviews please contact:

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Notes for Editors

The following are available for interview:

Professor Mel Leng MBE, British Geological Survey

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

British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS) is a world leading applied geoscience research centre that is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and affiliated to the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). BGS core science provides objective and authoritative geoscientific data, information and knowledge to inform UK Government on the opportunities and challenges of the subsurface. It undertakes national and public good research to understand earth and environmental processes in the UK and globally. The BGS annual budget of approximately £60 million pa is funded directly by UKRI, as well as research grants, government commissions and private sector contracts. Its 650 staff work across the UK with two main sites, the head office in Nottingham and Lyell Centre, a joint collaboration with Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. BGS works with more than 150 private sector organisations, has close links to 40 universities and sponsors about 100 PhD students each year. Please see www.bgs.ac.uk.