

Top level comment

This forward look is a grass-roots process and has not been asked for by funding agencies/GSL/ govt etc..

The outputs are expected to inform and influence stakeholders on the importance of research in the Earth Sciences sector.

Who's involved

We have a management/editorial team - Jon Davidson CHUGD, Lynne Frostick GSL; John Ludden BGS, Marge Wilson Univ. Leeds

They are aided by Vicky Hards BGS, Liz Fellman NERC, Georgina Worrall GSL

We have 3 experts who will act as PEER advisors - Alan Green ETH, Mike Bickle Univ. Cambridge, Garth Earls, GSNI

Yourselves and the entire Earth Science community

Some background

- We have ~ 100 people together here today (18th January 2010)
- We have a good selection of participants but there are sub-disciplines, sectors, regions... that are not represented
- This is the first step in an open process that will involve further consultation
- The process will end with a publication of the results by the 1st May 2010
- You have all been assigned to Breakout groups
- Each group has a lead, core participants and a rapporteur.
- The lead and core participants 2-3 per group will be responsible for writing up, linking with other groups, the electronic forum and keeping their themes alive until the end. They will stay on to the 19th January 2010.

The context

Where are earth scientists now in the UK science agenda? — Achievements, funding levels, National capability and infrastructure, student enrolment etc.

How well is earth science integrated into the current NERC strategy? — Are our strengths and is our influence being applied to NERC strategy. Should we be redirecting resources? Can we contribute more?

What is the long-term outlook for earth science? — Changing planet, requirements for observations and modelling, infrastructure, jobs and skill requirements

How can earth science be better structured within NERC and UK and also within European and international networks?



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Breakout groups The questions

What are our (three) most important scientific contributions?

What will the next (three) important scientific contribution be?

What do we as a sector need to accomplish them?

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Guideline sub-sectors for the breakout groups.

Please make suggestions as to how to make the sub-discipline descriptors more inclusive

BG1. Applied Geoscience to Serve Society

Encompassing Engineering Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology, Carbon Capture and Storage, Radioactive Waste Disposal, Contaminated Land, and Environmental Pollution and Health.

BG2. Natural Resources and Energy

Encompassing Minerals, Post Peak Oil and Consequences for Resource Development, Dwindling Mineral Resources and Security of Supply.

BG3. Natural Hazards

Encompassing the challenges for Earth Science in Understanding, Prediction and Mitigation of the effects of Earthquakes, Volcanic Activity, Tsunamis and Landslides.

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BG4. Putting the Earth into Earth System Science

Encompassing Earth History and Palaeontology, Structural Geology and Tectonics/Geodynamics.

BG5. Earth Surface - Critical Zone and Shallow Marine Processes

Encompassing the Earth as a driver for Climate Change (is the past the key to the future), Soft-rock Geology and, and Implications for Biodiversity.

BG6. Deep Earth

Encompassing the crust to the core; Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology and Deep Earth Geophysics: Seismology, and Geomagnetism.



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Breakout groups The questions again

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