



PRESS RELEASE

6 September 2018

The BGS welcomes Ólafur Ragnar Grimsson to the Lyell Centre

The British Geological Survey (BGS) has welcomed former President of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grimsson, to its Scottish base at the Lyell Centre in Edinburgh.

Mr Grimsson, who is Chairman of Arctic Circle, met with BGS Executive Director Professor John Ludden and Co-Director of the Lyell Centre Tracy Shimmiel to discuss science driving political and economic change in the Arctic, through collaborative working partnerships.

The BGS has a long history of working in Iceland and the Arctic, with scientists from BGS teams with expertise in volcanoes, seismology, geology and marine geoscience working on projects such as glacier monitoring at the BGS observatory at Virkisjökull, seismic monitoring in conjunction with the Icelandic Met Office and the Drifting Apart Geotourism project.

Mr Grimsson said, "Our meeting was a comprehensive and fascinating discussion on the scientific contribution of the British Geological Survey and Scotland to a greater understanding of the Arctic, and how that can lead to the better comprehension of how the planet is changing, demonstrating the important contribution of science in Scotland to help us all gain a better understanding of the Arctic and its future, including climate change.

"I have invited the British Geological Survey to participate in the Arctic Circle Assembly, which is the largest annual international gathering on the Arctic, attended by more than 2000 participants from 60 countries."

John Ludden said, "We had a productive meeting with Mr Grimsson, along with representatives from the Scottish Government European Engagement team, and the Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Mike Robinson. Mr Grimsson convinced us all of a need for a science approach towards the Arctic and the importance of the role of the Arctic Circle assemblies and forums.

"We look forward to continued dialogue between BGS, UK Research and Innovation, the Scottish Government and the Arctic Circle."



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Caption: (left to right) Tracy Shimmield, Co-Director of the Lyell Centre, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, Chairman of Arctic Circle, and Professor John Ludden, Executive Director, British Geological Survey.

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Notes for Editors

For further information on BGS please go to: www.bgs.ac.uk

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Caption: (left to right) Tracy Shimmield, Co-Director of the Lyell Centre, Ólafur Ragnar Grimsson, Chairman of Arctic Circle, and Professor John Ludden, Executive Director, British Geological Survey.

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. The 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.

Arctic Circle

The Arctic Circle is the largest network of international dialogue and cooperation on the future of the Arctic. It is an open, democratic platform with participation from governments, organisations, corporations, universities, think tanks, environmental associations, indigenous communities, concerned citizens, and others interested in the development of the Arctic and its consequences for the future of the globe. It is a non-profit and non-partisan organisation.