



B.G.R.G.

GEO P H E M E R A

The Newsletter of

THE BRITISH GEOMORPHOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP Nov 2002 No. 87

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B.G.R.G. Annual Meeting 2002

'Hillslope Geomorphology'

Leeds, September 12-14, 2002

I'm not sure that conferences are always remembered for the reasons that the organizers intend. Often it is such things as the impromptu late-evening beer fight between Prof. X and Prof. Y that lodge in the collective academic consciousness, not the quality of the papers in session Z. But despite several such eye-feast vignettes (including a real beer fight in a local pub, short but vigorous) the primary take-home memory from BGRG 2002 will surely be exactly what we all went there for, and what the Leeds organizers laboured hard to achieve: an opportunity for the geomorphological community to show its gratitude to, and respect for, Prof. Mike Kirkby on the occasion of his formal retirement from the School of Geography at Leeds.

Predicting the geomorphological impacts of future climate change is probably an easier task than assessing where the science of geomorphology would have been without Mike's paradigmatic contribution. So no attempts here. Proxy

evidence regarding his perceived input was abundant at this meeting, though. For one, senior geomorphologists with fearsomely busy schedules had travelled to the meeting from the US, Canada, Israel, and several European countries to show their gratitude to Mike. Expressions of personal and collective thanks also appeared in abstracts, presentations, and were uttered with obvious sincerity during wineglass-clutched-in-the-

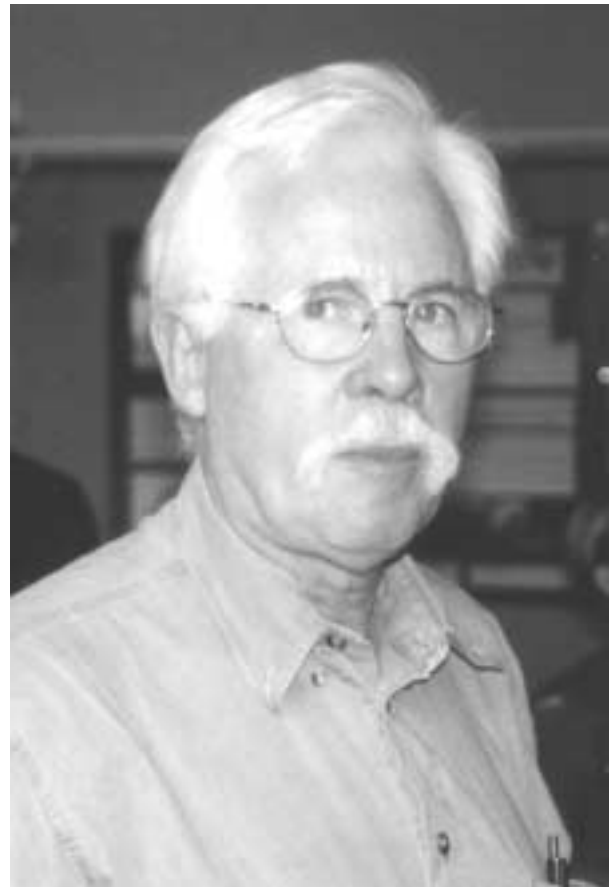


Figure 1: Prof. Mike Kirkby

Report continued on page 27

A B.G.R.G. non-publication compiled by Sue McLaren, Department of Geography,
University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH

PLEASE SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR GEOPHEMERA 88 BY 1 February 2002





Executive Committee: 2002-2003

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Editorial, Geophemera 87

After a 3 year stint compiling *Geophemera* Martin Evans has stepped down. He has done an excellent job both maintaining &, as was clearly evident in *Geophemera* 86, totally transforming the newsletter. The new image is very impressive & professional-looking. Well done Martin!! I hope that I can maintain the high standards that Martin has set. Feedback on the new format has been extremely positive. Some BGRG members have, however, found the background watermark 'BGRG logos' to be a little distracting so for *Geophemera* 87 they have been removed. I have thought about introducing a letters page for people to raise / discuss topical Geomorphological issues. I would be pleased to receive any feedback—if you think it's a good idea then why don't **YOU** get the ball rolling and email me or write. Please keep those reports, notices, features etc flowing in!

Sue McLaren Leicester

Contact the B.G.R.G.

For further information on the BGRG contact:

**Honorary Secretary
Prof John Wainwright**

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**For information about BGRG meetings and collaboration contact:
Meetings Officer and Editor of Geophemera**

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contact: Postgraduate Rep**

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Visit the BGRG Web Site at: <http://boris.qub.ac.uk/bgrg/>
Submit electronic copy for *Geophemera* to: sjm11@le.ac.uk





BULLETIN BOARD

Many thanks to all **BGRG LINK members** who replied to my request for numbers of new Geomorphological Postgraduate students starting at UK institutions this autumn. Welcome Packs have been distributed via these vital people for each new postgraduate, & provide further information about the BGRG & how it serves postgraduates. Each pack contains: a covering letter; Executive Committee contact list; membership application form; postgraduate flyer outlining benefits of membership; Windsor Workshop flyer with outline of programme; grant application forms; Geophemera. For a LINK member job description, further copies of the Welcome Pack or for any queries please contact Chrissie James, BGRG Co-ordinator. C.james@rgs.org

EXPLORE 2002

The 26th annual Expedition Planning Seminar 16-17 November 2002 at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 1 Kensington Gore, London

Are you planning an expedition or fieldwork? Explore 2002 is the place to find inspiration, contacts & practical advice you need to head off into the world's more remote & challenging environments. Lectures, workshops & one to one consultations help turn your dream into reality. *Cost £75 for the weekend; students/groups £50. Advance booking only*

Spring Field meeting 2004-2005

The EC is seeking offers to host the SFM in any of the next few years. It is hoped that these meetings will include a day of paper presentations in addition to the usual field trip. Contact the Hon. Sec.

Geomorphologist Vacancies— Birmingham or Swindon

Halcrow is currently recruiting graduate and experienced geomorphologists to meet existing project demands and to strengthen the expansion of our geomorphological group. If you are interested in pursuing a career in applied geomorphology in the commercial sector this could be the opportunity for you. For further information contact Dr Roger Moore, Halcrow Group Limited, Lyndon House, 62 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 8PE. Tel: 0121 456 2345

Or email
moorer@halcrow.com

EXPLORE LECTURE

Special 'Pre Explore Lecture' & bar on **Fri. 15th Nov. 5.30pm:** - *In the field with Steve Leonard & Martha Holmes.* Martha Holmes co-producer of the Blue Planet & vet Steve Leonard of the BBC's Ultimate Killers series, share their experiences from around the world. Showing stunning footage, they describe their fascination for fieldwork.

Tickets £10 or free to delegates attending Explore 2002 Expedition Advisory Centre at the RGS-IBG 020 7591 3030; eac@rgs.org www.rgs.org/explore

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Reminder notice

Annual Subscriptions for membership of the BGRG are now due. Please remember to send payment to the BGRG Administrator. Can those members who pay by standing order please check they have updated them in line with the recent increases in subscription rates (September 2001)

Wanted: Conference Organisers

Offers to convene a conference on your favourite geomorphological topic as part of the new series of 1-2 day January meetings at the Geological Society.

Postgraduate Research Training Workshop

9-12th December 2002
Further details can be found at:
www.bgrg.org/pages/postgraduates/windsor





Vince Gardiner

Vince Gardiner, who died from cancer on 21st June 2002, was a good servant of the Group and of British geomorphology. A north-easterner, he was one of a talented group of students from the Exeter Department (BSc 1969, PhD 1972), specialising at that time in geomorphometry. Our paths crossed many times in his early career, as he moved from research in computer cartography at the NERC Experimental Cartography Unit to lectureships at Wolverhampton and Coventry, and before we shared eleven good years from 1978 working together in the Leicester department. During this time he published an early, more or less definitive, Technical Bulletin on Drainage Basin Morphometry (1975), a related CATMOG and a well-received Field Manual (with Roger Dackombe, 1982). Vince was one of those utterly reliable and competent colleagues who could be called on to pitch in and help sort out any crisis or complex problem. This is the kind of dependability that gets recognised, and it meant he was unstinting in his response to requests for him to serve our discipline. His

served the Group as its Honorary Secretary (1989), as editor of the 1987 International Geomorphology Proceedings, and UK geography as a whole as editor of the semi-official edited volume (now in its third edition) on the Changing Geography of UK (variously with Ron Johnston and Hugh Matthews).

My own memories are more personal. For many years we were nearest neighbours in rural south Leicestershire and we shared leadership of numerous student physical geography field trips. Possibly the most memorable was one to Jersey in which we went out on the very day that the island declared an outbreak of FMD. Without any forewarning, all the possible physical work had to be conducted in the urban areas of the island and between high and low water marks. We coped, but it is at such times that one learns fast. It was on these trips that his later academic interests in water supply issues and the geography of the Channel Islands was generated and in which he published widely. Driven by his deeply held political views, he had a particular concern for making geography accessible to all, especially in the field. Politically, he 'put his money where his mouth was' and for many years served with

distinction on our local District Council.

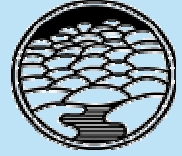
Vince left Leicester in 1989, first for a post in Her Majesty's Inspectorate, and then for senior posts at Roehampton and Liverpool John Moores. It was in these that his long-standing concern for teaching flowered, and he was a major contributor to UK geography's successful projects such as the Geography Discipline Network, and the Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning, work recognised shortly before his death by his being awarded the Taylor & Francis Prize of the Royal Geographical Society. He leaves a wife, Gill, a geographer who will be known to many of the Group, and three daughters for whom the untimely loss of a husband and dedicated father must be very hard to bear.

By Dave Unwin, Birkbeck College London





B.G.R.G. Business



BGRG Annual General Meeting: Minutes

Saturday 14th September 2002

St George Room, University House, University of Leeds 21.48pm

1. Apologies

Mary Bourke, Rorke Brian (RB), Alex Brunton, (AB), Mary Bourke (MB), Nick Drake (ND), Ian Foster (IF), Rob Ferguson (RF), John Gerrard (JG), Dave Higgitt. (DH), Ian Livingstone, (IL), Pam Naden (PN), Dave Nash (DN), Simon Reid (SR), Richard Shakesby RS), Julie Shannon (JS), Bernie Smith (BS), Tom Spencer (TS), Bernie Smith (BS), Bruce Webb (BW), Giles Wiggs (GW), Jamie Woodward (JW).

2. Minutes of the last AGM meeting held on 21st September 2001 at the University of Nottingham. Printed in *Geophemera* **84**.

Proposed: Paul Bishop

Seconded: Tim Burt

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted by the BGRG

3. Matters arising from the minutes where not addressed below.

IGU Glasgow 2004

Interest has been expressed on behalf of the BGRG to collaborate with Geomorphology and Sustainability. The planning process is continuing and TS is continuing to take a role. Adrian Harvey (AH) will be the Chair of the BGRG in 2004.

Paul Bishop asked whether BGRG is running a themed meeting. CH replied that extra themes were being proposed so as to be over-arching to encourage submissions across the whole discipline

4. Report of the Honorary Secretary (JW)

The report was distributed in the Agenda papers (Agenda Item 4).

Proposed: Dave Thomas

Seconded: Brian Whalley

The report was accepted by the meeting

CH said to note at the meeting the sad passing of Vince Gardiner, especially in terms of his contribution to the group and his role as a past HonSec

Tim Burt also suggested noting the passing of Dick Chorley, especially relating to his aid in ensuring the financial success of the group.

CH thanked JW for his seamless transition as HonSec.

5. Report of the Honorary Treasurer (DM).

The report was distributed in the Agenda Papers (Agenda Item 5). DM noted that the final report for 2000-2001 is now available for consultation.





Main points to note from the Report

- These are provisional accounts for 2001-2 financial year, given the end of the year was 12 days previously, and the lack of a final bank statement at the date of the AGM.
- Considerable changes, due to the ways in which a number of income streams have changed or been re-routed. Stability in terms of the ways these have occurred is now achieved.
- DM outlined the major differences in income and expenditure based on tabled information. Net trading loss of c.£5k, but based on previously defined policy to spend more of finances to support activities of members. Unrealized loss in terms of investments.
- Next year's budget marked by lower levels of throughput but more predictable streams of income and outgoings.
- Thanks to Chrissie and to EC and Committee members for clear instructions.

Comments from the membership:

- Tim Burt noted that the BGRG continues to be in position where the AGM cannot consider final accounts. DM shares these worries and noted that the issue has been discussed by the Executive Committee (EC). In an ideal world, the AGM would occur 6-8 months after the end of financial year. There is support for this, but should only be done once. Currently the EC are hesitant to introduce any immediate changes, given the uncertainty with the timing of the RGS-IBG annual conference
- Bob Allison noted a drop in research expenditure by 25% – is this wise given call to spend more on activities? DM replied that past two years have had difficulties in predicting income, with uncertainty leading to slightly too high draw-down over last couple of years. Tim Quine reminded the meeting that last year there was an exceptional increase because of the support that went to post grads attending the IAG in Japan.

Proposed: Dan Parsons

Seconded: Tim Burt.

The report was accepted by the meeting

CH thanked DM for his help and efficiency in running the accounts. Has been a stalwart of the committee, being a member for 11 years! CH also noted DM's caution in entering the stock market, which has benefited the group in an unstable economic situation.

6. Report of the Membership Secretary (MP).

MP reported on the current membership status of the BGRG. The report was attached to the Agenda. (Agenda Item 6).

Proposed: Tom Coulthard

Seconded: Martin Evans

The report was accepted by the meeting

7. Elections.

- Junior Vice Chair.** Prof. Mark Macklin (nominated: CH; seconded: JW)
- Honorary Treasurer.** Prof. Michael Thomas (nominated: JW; seconded: Tim Quine)
- Appointment of Chair of Publications sub-committee:** Jon French
- Appointment of Geophemera Editor:** Sue McLaren
- Ordinary Members:**
 - Dr Trevor Hoey (nominated: Dave Thomas; seconded: Tom Coulthard)





- Dr David Favis-Mortlock (nominated: Mark Powell; seconded: Katerina Michaelides)
- Dr Louise Bull (nominated: John Wainwright; seconded: Julie Shannon)

An election followed. Louise Bull received 33 votes; Trevor Hoey received 27 votes; David Favis-Mortlock received 18 votes. **Louise Bull** and **Trevor Hoey** were duly elected as Ordinary Members of the EC.

- vi. **Postgraduate Representative** Simon Reid (Leeds) new PG rep.
- vii. **Awards Sub Committee** Paul Bishop (nominated: JW; seconded: Tim Quine)

8. Geophemera Editor (ME)

The meeting generally agreed that the new format was an excellent improvement.

CH thanked ME for his efforts in bringing Geophemera into the 21st Century over such a short time period, and for his efforts overall over the last three years. The meeting expressed its thanks.

9. Website

Brian Whalley noted the changes made to the website in parallel to the changes in Geophemera. He brought the attention of the meeting to the potential for immediacy and interaction of website, and that this will also project image outwards. BW invited members to contact him with any potential changes that were thought useful.

Adrian Harvey asked whether the website would be easily found on search engines.

BW replied that meta-information had been improved to ensure this would happen.

CH reported that the decision was deliberately taken to maintain our own website rather than be subsumed within that of RGS-IBG. The meeting concurred that this was a good move.

Proposed: Adrian Harvey

Seconded: Janet Hooke.

The report was accepted by the meeting.

10. Appointments to the BGRG sub committees (CH)

- **Research:** Prof. Janet Hooke (chair), Prof. Charlie Harris, Prof. David Thomas
- **Awards:** Dr Bernie Smith (chair), Prof. Colin Thorne, Prof. Paul Bishop, Prof. Mark Macklin, Prof. John Wainwright
- **Education and Outreach:** Dr Ian Livingstone (chair), Dr. Stephan Harrison, Ed Anderson, Dr David Simm, Prof. Adrian Harvey, Prof. John Wainwright
- **Publications:** Dr John French (chair), Prof. Mike Kirkby, incoming Associate Editor of ESP&L, Prof. Brian Whalley, Dr Sue McLaren, Prof. David Thomas, Prof. Michael Thomas, Prof. John Wainwright

11. Report of the Chair of the Publications Sub-Committee (JW on behalf of Tom Spencer.)

The Report was attached to the Agenda papers (Agenda Item 11).

Proposed by: Tim Quine

Seconded by: Dave Thomas

The report was accepted by the meeting.

CH thanked Tom Spencer for his strenuous efforts as Chair. DM especially noted Tom's role in ensuring the success of the ESPL contract with Wiley. The meeting also expressed its thanks.





12. Report of the Chair of the Research sub-committee (Tony Parsons)

He thanked Janet Hooke and CH for their efficient responses, and to Chrissie for her efficient support. DM noted that any discrepancy between his figures and those in the report was due to the timing of any requests that had been through the accounts by the end of the financial year.

Proposed by: Mike Kirkby

Seconded by: Martin Evans

The Report was accepted by the meeting.

13. Report of the Chair of the Education and Outreach Sub-Committee (JW on behalf of IL)

The Report was attached to the Agenda Papers (Agenda Item 13) and was accepted by the meeting.

Proposed by: Tony Parsons

Seconded by: John Thornes

The Report was accepted by the meeting.

14. AOB

14a. BGRG Strategy

Brian Whalley noted the existence of the group of 781 members and the strength of the discipline coming out of the Mike Kirkby retirement meeting. He suggested, though, that there were issues arising out of the lack of response of the discipline to the RAE evaluation one-year on. Are there issue relating to being out-manoeuvred with changes in wider areas. Should we be setting wider goals in terms of outreach? Should there be discussion over the next few months to encourage the discipline to move forwards in ways that the membership might best benefit from?

Dave Thomas suggested that an internet discussion site might be useful. BW suggested that issues such as this might be usefully evaluated via pieces in Geophemera.

CH noted that the EC had discussed these issues in general and noted that Mark Macklin would be asked to assess the strategic role of the group. Adrian Harvey asked whether E&O should take this role? CH said that it was more suitable for a senior officer of the group. Tim Burt and John Thornes agreed.

14b. Official thanks

Tony Parsons asked the meeting to record its thanks to Brian Whalley and Bernie Smith for their continuing efforts in running the Windsor workshop

14c. Link Person

Dan Parsons noted that each Link Person would be receiving the new pack to encourage new post grads to join.

Paul Bishop asked for clarification of who link people are. CJ noted that the new list was being compiled and would be distributed shortly.

15. Date of next meeting:

Saturday 6th September 2003; Oxford.

CH closed the meeting by thanking departing EC and sub-committee members: Prof. Lynne Frostick (Awards), Prof. Tony Parsons (Research), Dr Tom Spencer (Publications), Dr Martin Evans (Editor of Geophemera), Prof. Derek Mottershead (Treasurer), Dr Sue McLaren; Dr Giles Wiggs; Dan Parsons He finished by thanking Christine James for her invaluable help as administrator.

Dave Thomas thanked CH for his time as Chair. In particular he has developed the group's relationships with the GeoSoc and developed new initiatives.





Annual Report of the Honorary Secretary, 2001-2002

Another strong year has seen the group capitalize on recent developments in its structure, finances and commitments. The membership subscription and a diverse income stream provide a strong base to support general initiatives, some of which are starting to show significant developments this year.

Annual activity kicked off, as usual, with the AGM held in Nottingham. As well as the continued success of the unthemed meetings, there was a Friday-afternoon special session on new approaches in the discipline, chaired by Nick Clifford. A very diverse set of interests was represented, showing the major contribution that geomorphology has to make to scientific debate in general. The Frost lecture was given in inimitable antipodean style by Gerald Nanson on a range of topics relating to fluvial geomorphology. In marked contrast, Michael Thomas's Linton Lecture "Diamonds may be forever ..." reflected the notable contributions to tropical geomorphology that led to his award. The Gordon Warwick award winner, David Higgitt, was able to relax in the wings following the awards ceremony. The meeting overall was a great success, and all the more so given the last-minute juggling required by the Nottingham team following the inability of several speakers from the US to visit (not least one of the co-organisers) following the events of last September. For a full report of the meeting, see *Geophemera* **84**, 48-9.

The group was represented at the RGS-IBG annual conference in Belfast by two well-attended sessions. A joint session with the Mountain Research Group, organized by Brian Whalley and Stephan Harrison, reflected the choice of 2002 as the UN International Year of Mountains. Lively debate followed the presentation of a number of papers on the likely impacts of climate and land-use change. See *Geophemera* **85**, 29-30, for a detailed report. Dave Favis-Mortlock also ran a session on Non-Linear Dynamics in Geomorphology.

Following the postponement last year due to the restrictions imposed by the Foot and Mouth outbreak, the Aberystwyth field meeting on river systems and environmental change finally took place in April. The highly successful meeting (*Geophemera* **86**, 1) was held in conjunction with a workshop of the Upland Sediment Budget Working group. Support provided for postgraduates to attend meant that the meeting as a whole was very well attended. Shortly afterwards, the Postgraduates held their own meeting in Leeds. Again a roaring success, not least due to the continuing efforts of the postgrad representatives, the meeting saw a fine collection of papers together with a variety of field visits within Leeds and environs (*Geophemera* **86**, 15-6). Building on the work of Suzie Hewitt and Dan Parsons last year, Philippa Noble and Dan have continued to strengthen the links with the postgrad community, and Link Persons in each University Department will shortly be receiving "welcome" packs developed by them to entice more postgraduate members into the group. The numbers from the Membership Secretary suggest that this area is one of success, despite postgraduate numbers across the country that are not as strong as they were a few years back.

On the subject of the Link Members – the person in each University Department who is responsible for passing on information (such as that which appears in *Geophemera*) – the EC has recently tried to invigorate this system so that details are consistently passed on and distributed. This "grass-roots" contact prevents our losing touch with members, so please ensure that if you are your Department's Link, that you remain active – or if the pressures of the day job get in the way, pass on the task to someone else. There is also the opportunity of feeding questions and comments back to the Executive Committee more frequently than at the AGM. Please don't feel that you have to wait!

In terms of Working Groups, The Upland Sediment group is beginning to overcome the limitations posed by Foot and Mouth, and the Terrestrial Geochemical Sediments and Geomorphology group provided a comprehensive report of its first year of activity, including meetings in Strasbourg (European Union of Geosciences), the Nottingham AGM, and in Brighton. The Fluid Dynamics group has now come to an end. Despite numerous promptings, no group has stepped into the breach to take its place. The Working groups provide a valuable format for discussion, collaborative research and can a stepping-stone for major research grants, so please don't hesitate in coming forward with further suggestions. The same can be said for the opportunities to host workshops as precursors to NERC thematic programmes, for which the take-up thus far has been slow to say the least. The EC has worked to ensure representation for Geomorphology in the wider remit of NERC – most recently in terms of the Earth-Systems Science initiative – so please make sure the potential that is there is actually taken up.

The publications front continues in strength. Perhaps fittingly for the theme of the Leeds meeting, we can report on a





significant increase in the impact factor of ESPL, and I would like to echo Tom Spencer's comments about ensuring that the journal remains at the top of everyone's list when considering publication. Members are reminded of the generous discounts available for subscriptions. Remember also our link with *Area*, where Heather Viles is now on the editorial board. Martin Evans worked wonders with *Geophemera*, so that issue 86 was marked by a major change in format. The new format is visually more appealing, and has the added advantage of keeping production costs down, so that we can spend more of our money supporting research and other initiatives.

In parallel, Brian Whalley has been developing the website, using a common format across the paper and virtual publications. Remember to bookmark our new address at <http://www.bgrg.org> for access to all the usual information and more! The Education and Outreach Committee has also started to develop materials for schools to encourage the budding geomorphologists of the future to enter the discipline, and this material will become an integral part of the new version of the website.

A number of times during this report, I've referred to the impact of the world at large on the geomorphological community. On reflection, I think it is worth taking this opportunity to consider how the discipline should move forwards and play its part within the world at large. The meeting in August marking the 50th anniversary of the Lynmouth floods was perhaps timely considering the floods across Europe and elsewhere at various times over the summer. There is still a lot to provide in terms of the applied end of the discipline, but let us not forget the impact of research and scientific debate in general.

To finish, I would just like to mark the end of my first year as Hon. Sec. With some words of thanks: to Tim Quine for a smooth handover and support on the "what happens next?" front; to Christine James for her unstinting support on the administrative front; and to all the members of the EC for their support and efficiency during the year.

Prof. John Wainwright

Department of Geography, King's College London

September 2002

TREASURER'S REPORT, 2001-2002

Introduction

The final report of accounts for 2000-01, as approved by the Independent Examiner, is published in *Geophemera* **85**, and is also available for consultation from the Treasurer.

This report is provisional in status, pending the availability of full year end financial information and Independent Examination by the auditors.

The accounts for 2000-01 embraced the first full year of operation following the restructuring of BGRG finances in 1999-2000. The current year brings further substantial change to the shape of BGRG accounts. This is created largely by the new arrangement whereby the ESP&L editorial royalty is paid directly by Wileys to the managing editor. Additionally, Classic Landform (second edition) royalties are also for the first time paid by the GA directly to authors. Thus significant sums of money which formerly passed through the BGRG accounts now no longer do so.

The effect of these changes is twofold. First, annual turnover, which previously was in effect artificially inflated by the brief passage of these significant sums, is now substantially reduced from ca £47k to ca £29k. Secondly, the reduced annual turnover will impact on the Reserve Policy, prescribing a downsizing of the required Reserve target to £30k. This in turn will change the value of the notional surplus, and the sum available for the 8 year further drawdown of assets toward the new Reserves target level.

Income and Expenditure 2001-2002

The current year has seen a substantial decrease in estimated income (-£16912.75), due largely to the revised royalty arrangements. There has also been a significant decrease in subscription income (-£2225.97), due in large part to the inflation of the previous year's subscription income by the retrieval of underpaid subscriptions from 1999-2000. Offset





against these is an increase in bank interest received (+£755.60). The IBG subvention remains approximately constant. BGRG tie sales remain disappointing.

Estimated expenditure has shown a corresponding decrease (-£17292.20). The main contributors to this are the revised royalty arrangements, creating a reduction in publications expenditure (-£15111.80), and also a decrease in research expenditure

(-£3460.52). There are moderate increases in expenditure on education (+£403.70) and subscriptions (+£1457.67). This latter figure represents 3 years IAG subscription, including two years underpayment arising from bank and IAG secretariat respectively. Expenditure of administration and awards and have remained broadly constant.

It is estimated that the current year will show a trading loss of around £5000. This in line with the expressed wish of the membership that BGRG funds be deployed in furthering the interests of geomorphology, rather than simply accumulating.

No particular difficulty has been experienced through the year, and overall the BGRG accounts are healthy.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy required by Charity Commission guidelines is now firmly established.

The notional split of the £60000 reserves sum into growth funds (75%) and safety funds (25%) took place January 2000. Agreed BGRG policy is to invest the growth funds in equity based funds of an ethical nature, and safety funds in a high yielding bank account

The entire reserves were immediately placed in the Abbey National Business Reserve postal account, with a view to transferring sums into equity funds on the basis of professional advice and according to stock market conditions.

January 2000 saw stock market valuations at an all time high, at a level which has not been regained during the subsequent 20 months. Purchase of a first tranche of pooled fund units was delayed until September 2000, when a £15000 investment was made in the Jupiter Ecology Fund, with income reinvested. At the same time a capital sum of £15000 was transferred to the Lloyds TSB current account on standby against the purchase of a further tranche of investment units.

In the context of the continuing decline in equity market values no further pooled fund purchases have yet been made. The Lloyds TSB current account retains the notional £15k of standby capital, and the third tranche of growth fund capital (£15k) remains in the Business Reserve Account, where it continues to attract a good rate of interest in the prevailing market conditions. Further pooled fund purchases will be made, on the basis of professional advice, when market conditions become more favourable.

The Jupiter Ecology holding at 31.08.02 stood at a value of £7616.05, an unrealised loss on the year of £2667.55. In contrast the balance in the Abbey National Business Reserve Account has increased by £973.00, increasing the sum available for future equity investment, and is well placed to profit from the next market upturn.

With the revised royalty arrangements now in place, a revised target of £30k is now an appropriate level for the Reserves.

Assets

The valuation of BGRG assets as at 31.08.02 is shown in the accompanying summary.

Prospect

Following the transitional volatility of the past three years, a period of stability is now in prospect. With new equilibrium values of income and expenditure, a sound basis now exists on which the new treasurer can realistically formulate an annual budget.

Derek Mottershead, Hon. Treasurer

09.09.02





SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2001/02 (Provisional)

Income and Expenditure

	Accounts for 01/09/009 -31.08.01	Accounts for 01/09/01 -31.08.02
Income		
Subscriptions	9027.47	6801.50
Royalties	31890.23	15873.85
IBG Subvention	262.00	294.00
Tie sales	-	-
Advertising	-	-
Meetings	-	643.00
Miscellaneous	101.00	-
Interest	230.19	985.79
Total Income:	41510.89	24598.14
Expenditure		
Research	13166.52	9706.00
Subscriptions	481.07	1938.74
Awards & Expenses	582.46	530.31
Publications	21258.44	6146.64
Education	405.93	809.63
Administration	10788.20	10259.10
Insurance	-	-
Support Costs	-	-
Total Expenditure:	46682.62	29390.42
NET INCOME for the year	-5171.73	-4792.28

Assets

Account	Opening Balance (01.09.01)	Closing Balance (31.08.02)
Lloyds/TSB current account	12893.02	8301.85
Abbey National Business Reserve Account	27332.53	28305.53
Jupiter Ecology Fund	10283.60	7616.05
TOTAL	50509.15	44223.43





Annual Report of the Membership Secretary, 2001-2002.

As of mid-August 2002, there were a total of 781 paid up members of the BGRG listed on the database. Of these, 387 are full members, 249 are postgraduate members, 8 are unwaged, 20 are retired and 136 are overseas. Although this represents a drop from the total of 832 members at the same time last year, this in part reflects the continuing process of removing names of lapsed members from the database. We have welcomed a total of 64 new members since last September, the majority of whom are postgraduates.

The advantages of joining the BGRG are advertised in the new format *Geophemera* with application forms available from the BGRG web site. The website will soon feature an on-line registration and credit card payment facility. Dan Parsons and Suzie Hewitt have put together a leaflet advertising and promoting the BGRG to the postgraduate community. Can I remind the membership that colour leaflets advertising the BGRG more generally are available for distribution at conferences etc.

Finally, please remember to renew your subscriptions for 2002/3, to complete your Research Register details if you have not already done so and to forward any changes of address to the Membership Secretary or the Administrative Assistant at the RGS-IBG (C.James@RGS.org).

Dr. Mark Powell

Department of Geography, University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH

BGRG Annual Publications Report, 2001-2002

1. Earth Surface Processes and Landforms

Contractual Issues

The post of Associate Editor for Earth Surface Processes and Landforms, currently filled on behalf of the Group by Danny McCarroll, becomes vacant on 31 December 2002. The post is for four years, until 31 December 2006. A job description and call for Expressions of Interest in the post were placed in the July 2002 issue of '*Geophemera*' with a closing date of 31 August 2002. It has been agreed by the Managing Editor and the BGRG Executive Committee, and following the terms of the new contract with Wileys, that the BGRG Publications Committee will review applications and decide upon the new holder of the post.

Some 'refreshing' of Editorial Board membership is underway.

Position and Impact Factor

Data from the ISI Geosciences Interdisciplinary category indicates a strengthening of ESP+L's position and impact factor from 1999 to 2000. Potential authors please take note.

Journal	1999		2000	
	Position	Impact Factor	Position	Impact Factor
ESP+L	42	1.040	35	1.247
Geomorphology	32	1.213	43	1.079
Catena	50	0.860	42	1.082
Z. Geomorph.	63	0.613	65	0.644

Print Quality

Improvement of paper quality now allows for better reproduction of images and the use of integrated colour.





Subscriptions

There are currently 147 Special Subscribers to ESP+L; 126 are BGRG members (125 print-only + 1 online-only) and 21 IAG members or members of related societies. There remain 3 postgraduate subscriptions at a reduced rate (£30) jointly subsidised by the BGRG and Wileys. This continues to be a disappointing response, in spite of efforts to raise awareness of the initiative and re-wording of the order form.

Editorial Business

The editorial office reports:

Number of papers

138 (118) papers were received by the editorial office in Leeds. This figure includes 24 papers for three special issues (14 for 2 Special Issues) This is an increase on last year with both more Special Issue papers and more manuscripts coming direct to the Leeds office. The two Special Issues published this year contained 16 papers. In addition the BGRG Editor received 19 (18) papers, roughly the same number as last year.

Acceptance/rejection

Submissions were once again high in the northern summer months. 31% of the total were received between June and August, with the majority arriving in August. They were also high in November and January/February. Of the papers not out with referees or in the editorial office, 37%(35%) have been accepted, 23%(37%) have been rejected and the remainder are with authors for either major revision 24%(12%) or minor revision 14%(16%). The acceptance figures are much the same as last year. The rejection rate is lower than last year but the number of papers requiring major revision is higher, suggesting that the 60/40 split accept/reject will be maintained. The corresponding rates for papers managed by the BGRG Editor are 21% (33%) acceptances and 57%(17%) rejections with the remainder (22%) with authors for minor or major revision.

Authors

For papers received by the editorial office UK authorship has fallen slightly to 18% (21%). North American authorship has fallen slightly to 20% (26%) and European authorship (other than UK) has risen to 27% (23%). The contribution from China, Japan and the rest of Asia remains at 15% (15%) but papers from Australasia have risen to 12%. Papers have also been received from South America, Israel and Africa.

Publication

During 2002 93 manuscripts were published in the journal.

The backlog has started to increase. At the start of the year it was still 5 months. The editorial office now has 66 (37) papers in the pipeline, including 2 special issue papers and a seven month wait until print issue. As there is a good flow of papers 'Early View' papers should be on the web three months before print publication.

Special Issues

There have been two Special Issues this year:

- Drainage Basin Dynamics and Morphology (edited for the journal by Church and Hassan)
- Geomorphic processes in relation to land-use change (Gary Brierley; GERTEC Meeting Bratislava 5/2000).

Due for publication in October 2002:

- Symposium on Process Geomorphology. In honour of Prof. Pim Jungerius, Amsterdam December 1999

Due for publication December 2002:

- Linkage of Hillslope Erosion to Sediment Transport and Storage in River and Floodplain Systems (John Wainwright: COST Meeting Almeria 9/2000)

Expected September 2002:





- Generation of High Quality Topographic Data for Hydrology and Geomorphology (Stuart Lane; BGRG/Photogrammetric Society Leeds 1/2001)

In progress:

- Big Rivers (Avijit Gupta; IAG Japan 8/2001)
- Significance of Soil Surface Characteristics in Soil Erosion (A.Auzet, J.Poesen and C.Valentin; COST 623 Strasbourg, France 9/2001)
- Chaos and Complexity (D.Favis Mortlock, C.Lloyd and N.Tate; RGS-IBG Meeting Belfast 1/2002)
- Terrestrial Geochemical Sediments and Geomorphology (S. McLaren and D.Nash BGRG Fixed Term Working Group Brighton 5/2002)
- Papers from the 5th ICAR/GCTE-SEN Meeting (Ted Zobeck, Lubbock, Texas 7/2002)

Subscription to related Journals

The offer of reduced rates for related journals from Wileys to ESP+L subscribers was repeated in 2002, the order form being included in the membership mailing in October.

Wider issues

The next meeting between the editorial team of ESP+L, the Chair of the BGRG Publications Committee and Wiley's is due to take place in late September 2002, both to generally take stock and to review issues about the journal raised by BGRG members at the AGM.

2. Report On Other Publishing Initiatives

Heather Viles' appointment with the RGS-IBG journal 'Area' continues. Her brief is to try to encourage the submission of more papers from physical and environmental geographers and she is keen to hear from BGRG members. The areas of particular interest are: issues of applying science to environmental problems; philosophical issues within physical geography; doing physical geography - including issues of fieldwork, modelling and experimentation; the future of physical geography. Such papers may be more opinion-based than is usual in scientific journals, or reflective of research traditions, or indicative of the nature of contemporary geographical science. It is hoped to generate debate, argument and discussion, particularly from amongst postgraduates and post-doctoral research workers.

The agreement with the publishers of the RGS-IBG book series 'Studies in Geography', Blackwells, contains a commitment to publish one or more physical geography books per year. These can be edited collections and could, therefore, look like the old Wiley symposium series or the meeting-related publications of the Geological Society. Organisers of meetings, both BGRG meetings and otherwise, are urged to consider this publication option. The editors are Jon Sadler and Nick Henry, with Dave Thomas acting in an advisory capacity for physical geography proposals.

3. Geomorphological Techniques (3rd Edition)

Progress has been disappointing slow on this project, but matters are now genuinely on the move. This is due entirely to the unstinting efforts and remarkable optimism of the Chief Editor, Tim Burt. Authorship has been confirmed for all four sections. Two of the sections are largely complete, with authors working on the remainder. The Introduction is also in hand. Routledge still need to issue contracts but it is hoped that this will be done soon. A realistic date for the entire manuscript being in the Chief Editor's hands is Easter 2003.

4. The History of the Study of Landforms, Volume IV

Dick Chorley's death has cast a shadow over this project but it is moving steadily forward. It will hopefully be a proper and lasting memorial to Dick, who planned its structure and suggested much of its authorship. Dick's own chapter is safely in the filing cabinet (one of the first to be completed, of course) and has recently been checked by his widow, Rosemary. Fourteen out of the nineteen chapters have now been received, with the remainder expected shortly; this will leave only Nick Cox to complete the 'book end' chapters. Stan Schumm has written a brief appreciation of Dick Chorley, to include as a Foreword to the volume, and Andrew Goudie has done the same for Richard Beckinsale (who also died in the interval since





the appearance of Volume III). It is hoped to have the complete manuscript to Routledge by the end of 2002, for publication in 2003.

5. Classic Landforms

Brecon Beacons (Shakesby) and *Assynt and Coigach* (Lawson) were published in 2002.

Following the negotiation of new arrangements to pay royalties direct to editors and authors with the GA, both the GA and the BGRG have taken the opportunity to review the terms and conditions for their respective editors of the series. A job description and a properly defined term of office are under consideration by the BGRG Executive Committee for the post of BGRG Editor to the Second Series of Guides..

6. Concluding remarks

The Chair's Term of Office comes to an end at the Leeds AGM. I thank all those that have supported BGRG Publications in many different ways over the last three years and wish my successor well.

Tom Spencer, Chair, Publications Sub-Committee

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH REPORT, 2001-2002

This subcommittee was established with elections at the BGRG AGM in 2001. Ian Livingstone was elected chair and Dave Simm, Ed Anderson and Stephan Harrison were elected as committee members. In addition, Derek Mottershead, as co-ordinator of the subcommittee's forerunner, was co-opted. Adrian Harvey as vice-chair and John Wainwright as honorary secretary joined as ex-officio members. Further to strengthen links with other UK organisations, Pauline Kneale, member of RGS/IBG council and of the Higher Education Research Group, has recently joined the subcommittee as a co-opted member.

1 BGRG/FSC Certificate Course for Teachers

Negotiations continue with the Field Studies Council and Birmingham University, which validates the programme, for the first implementation of this programme. It is envisaged that the course will run for the first time in 2003.

2 Geomorphology Teaching in Schools Initiative

E & O has expended considerable effort in the past year considering how best to promote geomorphology in schools. Materials are to be made available from the BGRG website for use in schools. E & O has decided to concentrate on two school cohorts: those at Key Stage 4 (AS/A2 level) and those at Key Stage 3 (GCSE). Consideration of topics examined at AS/A2 level in England and Wales have led us to develop website materials on drainage basin hydrology and fluvial geomorphology, including applied aspects, as a pilot. Ed Anderson is taking the lead in developing material building on materials developed at Bede College. In due course we will be turning to the BGRG membership for suggestions and resources to help us to develop the site.

3 RIGS

Stephan Harrison has assumed responsibility for RIGS matters.

4 Marjorie Sweeting Dissertation Prize

The Executive Committee has asked E & O to take over the administration and adjudication of the annual dissertation prize. Assessment criteria and assessment procedures have been revised during the course of the year.

For the year 2001 competition, 11 entries were received. By unanimous decision, the adjudicators awarded the Sweeting dissertation prize to Peter Rutter of Cambridge University, for his dissertation entitled 'Using SIR-C radar images to assess the surface roughness of lava flow deposits in the Las Cañadas crater, Tenerife, Canary Islands'. The runner-up was Andrew Finlayson of St. Andrews University, for his work 'Using lichenometric dating to establish Late Holocene debris flow frequency at the Pass of Drumochter, eastern Grampian Highlands'. A feature of the 2001 competition was the entry of projects which clearly were associated with funded research programmes. These projects were deemed by the adjudicators to have the potential to benefit from such association in terms of design, data capture and presentation packages, and were therefore excluded from consideration on equal opportunity grounds. E&O has revised regulations for the prize to include a requirement that candidates give information about associations with funded research projects or access to other resources.





Awards Nominations 2003



Prof. Athol Abrahams (SUNY Buffalo) receiving the Linton Award 2002 from the BGRG Chair, Prof. Charlie Harris (left); and presenting the 2002 Linton Lecture (right) at the Leeds AGM.

It's time to get your thinking caps on again to give nominations for the BGRG awards for 2003. There are two awards presented annually at the AGM. The winners this year – Athol Abrahams (Linton Award) and Andrew Nicholas (Warwick Award) – can be seen here receiving their medals.

- The *Linton Award* is given to a geomorphologist who has made a leading contribution to the discipline over a sustained period. The winner is invited to present the Linton Lecture, which is one of the central elements of the AGM.
- The *Warwick Award* is made for excellence in geomorphological research as recorded in a named publication or set of publications. The recipient must be under 35 years of age or have commenced work on their doctorate not more than 15 years previously.

Please take a few minutes to fill in the forms that are in this issue of *Geophemera* to make a nomination for one or both of these awards – the more the merrier!

John Wainwright
Honorary Secretary



Dr Andrew Nicholas receiving the 2002 Warwick Award at the Leeds AGM.

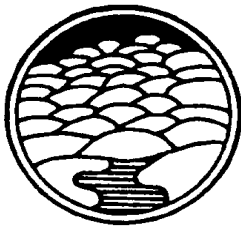




First call for papers:

GLOBAL CHANGE: GEOMORPHOLOGICAL AND BIOGEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVES

BGRG & Biogeography Study Group co-hosted session at the RGS (with IBG) Annual Conference, September 3-5 2003



Call for papers

The Annual Conference of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) will in 2003 be held at the RGS (with IBG) headquarters in London, from 3-5 September 2003. The conference theme is 'Geography Serving Society and Environment' and the Chair of Conference is Professor Alan Werritty, former chair of the BGRG. Conference details are posted on <http://www.rgs.org/ACLondon2003>

Physical Geography sessions will be held on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 September. The **BGRG and the RGS (with IBG) Biogeography Study Group** are co-hosting a session:

'Global Change: Geomorphological and Biogeographical Perspectives'. This session will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 4 September and the morning of Friday 5 September, allowing BGRG delegates to then move on to the BGRG Annual Conference at Oxford (we are exploring the option of directly running a coach between the two venues for the ease of BGRG delegates).

Oral papers are invited on a range of topics within this theme, including:

- Geomorphological and biogeographical evidence of past environmental changes and dynamics;
- Geomorphological and biogeographical futures under predicted climate changes;
- Interactions between vegetation and geomorphic systems.

Initial expressions of interest/ offers of papers should be made to David Thomas, Department of Geography, University of Sheffield (d.s.thomas@shef.ac.uk) or Dawn Scott, Biology Division, University of Brighton (dawn.scott@bton.ac.uk) before the end of March 2003.



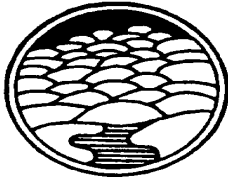


British Geomorphological Research Group
Annual Conference 2003

5 - 7 September 2003

School of Geography
and the Environment

University of Oxford



Call for papers

The 2003 Annual Conference will be held in Oxford at the School of Geography and the Environment with accommodation in St Catherine's College. We would like to encourage submission of papers for oral presentations and posters on ALL aspects of geomorphology. Please fill in the Expression of Interest form online at the conference website or in hard copy and return it to Heather Viles if you would like to present a paper or poster at the meeting.

Provisional programme

Friday 5th September

- BGRG Limited Life Working Group on Geochemical Sediments and Geomorphology Final Meeting
- Frost lecture

Saturday 6th September

- Paper and poster sessions
- BGRG AGM
- Conference dinner

Sunday 7th September

- Paper and poster sessions

Deadline for receipt of abstracts: 1st April 2003

Deadline for registration at reduced rates: 1st July 2003

RGS/IBG conference link-up

New this year! The BGRG Annual Conference in Oxford will dovetail with the RGS/IBG conference in London (3rd to 5th September) allowing attendance at both with a highly attractive Joint Conference Rate to cover geomorphology sessions at the RGS/IBG and the whole BGRG. Details will be posted on the conferences web sites when they have been finalized.

BGRG Conference Web page <http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/news/conference07.html>

Local organizing committee: Heather Viles, John Boardman, Mary Bourke, Andrew Goudie, Greg Tucker. For further information contact: heather.viles@geog.ox.ac.uk





BRAIDED RIVERS 2003 International Conference

University of Birmingham, UK

7th – 9th April 2003

The aim of 'Braided Rivers 2003' is to build on the highly successful original 'Braided Rivers' conference that took place a decade ago in 1992. The result of that conference was the hugely influential and much cited book *Braided Rivers* (Ed. By J. L. Best and C. S. Bristow). Ten years on, it is now appropriate to review progress in the area of braided rivers and develop the multi-disciplinary approach initiated at the original conference.

A central feature of the conference will be to provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of new developments within the areas of geomorphology, sedimentology, ecology, engineering and management as well as between them. The conference thus aims to appeal to a broad range of delegates and so foster discussion across the disciplines. It is hoped that presentations and posters will build on these themes thus topics that cover areas within each discipline as well as between the disciplines are welcomed.

Full details, including keynote speakers and how to register your interest can be found at the conference website:

<http://www.cwr.bham.ac.uk/braid/>

Conference Coordinator Greg Sambrook Smith (g.smith.4@bham.ac.uk)

Scientific Committee Angela Gurnell, Geoff Petts, Jim Best, Charlie Bristow

25th BGRG Postgraduate Symposium University of Wales, Aberystwyth

8-10th April 2003

Second Announcement and Call for Papers

Postgraduate students of geomorphology and the earth sciences are invited to attend the 25th BGRG Postgraduate Symposium to be held at the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. The symposium is an excellent opportunity for students to present a paper or a poster in a stimulating but informal environment. You don't have to present anything in order to attend – if you prefer just come along and meet friendly, like-minded students from many other UK departments.

Conference details

Presentation and poster sessions will run on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday and shall include a talk from our guest speaker, Professor John Lewin. An optional half-day field trip will be held on Thursday. Evening entertainment will include a buffet and conference dinner, and a chance to enjoy some of the many pubs in Aberystwyth.

Abstracts

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations should be submitted by email to gbb97@aber.ac.uk by **3rd February 2003**. They should be a maximum of 300 words, in 12pt Times New Roman Word format. Abstracts should include all authors and affiliations and indicate the type of presentation.

Registration and Cost

The deadline for registration is the **7th March 2003**, forms can be downloaded from the conference website. Registration (including the conference field trip) is free to BGRG members. Bed and breakfast accommodation (study bedrooms with shared facilities) will be available at a cost of £18 p-p-p-n.

For further details log on to the symposium website: www.aber.ac.uk/iges/conferences or e-mail: pln97@aber.ac.uk

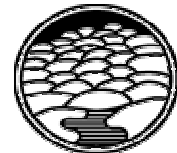




**BRITISH GEOMORPHOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP
JOINT ASSOCIATION FOR QUATERNARY RESEARCH**



**Joint Meeting at The Geological Society,
Burlington House, London, 13-14 January 2003
“Cryospheric Systems”**



http://www.earth.cf.ac.uk/news/BGRG_JAQR_Conf.html

An interdisciplinary meeting for geoscientists concerned with the glacial and periglacial systems

Conference Aims:

To provide a forum for research on glacial and periglacial systems and the interaction between them, in terms of processes, landforms and sediment associations in a changing global climate.

Conference Programme:

The conference programme will include the following thematic sessions:

***Coupling Glacial-Permafrost Systems –
Dynamics and Process***

Keynote Lectures

Geoffrey Boulton (University of Edinburgh)

Field measurements and large-scale modelling of glacier-permafrost hydraulic relations

David Sugden (University of Edinburgh)

Glacial and periglacial processes, Transantarctic Mountains

***Coupling Glacial-Permafrost Systems -
Depositional Environments***

Keynote Lectures

Berndt Etzelmüller (University of Oslo)

Coupling of cryospheric systems in the ice-marginal zone, Spitsbergen

Colin Ballantyne (St Andrews University)

Paraglacial landscape modification: some implications for glacial and periglacial systems

Registration will include:

Abstracts Volume

Tea Coffee and Buffet Lunch Monday & Tuesday 13th and 14th January and Wine Reception Monday, 13th January. Lunch will be served in Burlington House.

Registration Fee: Full (two days): £60 Daily rate: £35

Please print and complete the booking form from the BGRG website

Modelling and monitoring of cryospheric processes

Keynote Lectures

Daniel Vonder Mühll (University of Basel)

Thermal monitoring of mountain permafrost

Toni Lewkowicz (University of Ottawa)

Monitoring of cryogenic slope processes

Climate Change: cryospheric responses

Keynote Lectures

Jef Vandenburghe (Free University of Amsterdam)

Quaternary permafrost palaeoclimates of Europe

Frederick Nelson (University of Delaware)

Monitoring and modelling the impact of climate change on Arctic permafrost

Wilfried Haeberli (University of Zurich)

Climate change and the mountain cryosphere

Chris Burn (Carleton University)

Monitoring permafrost response to climate change, western Arctic Canada





British Geomorphological Research Group

"Unstable Ground": Spring Field Meeting 2003

North York Moors and Coast, 9-11 May



Provisional Programme

- Friday 9 May** Symposium on "Unstable Ground" at University of Durham Queen's Campus, Stockton on Tees, from 10 am. Please see information below regarding call for papers. Keynote speakers will include Professor Mike Crozier (Victoria U., New Zealand).
- Saturday 10 May** Field Day on North Yorkshire Coast Saltburn-by-the-Sea; Boulby; Staithes; Sandsend; Whitby Harbour.
- Sunday 11 May** Field Day on North York Coast and Moors Scarborough South Shore; Vale of Pickering; Fen Bog; Esk Valley

Fieldsites will illustrate recent applied research and involve representatives from academia, industry and government agencies.

Logistics

The symposium will take place in Stockton. Accommodation for Friday and Saturday evenings will be in Whitby or Scarborough and transport will be arranged to transfer delegates. Minibus transport is provided throughout the fieldtrip. At the conclusion of the field excursion (mid-afternoon on Sunday) onward transport to Darlington railway station or back to the hotel will be provided.

The fee includes registration, field guide, transport, reception, bed, breakfast and evening meal on Friday and Saturday. Tea/coffee and a sandwich lunch will be included on Friday but the cost of lunches on Saturday and Sunday is not included. Please enquire if accommodation is required on Thursday evening. Some delegates may be interested in a symposium on "Fieldwork Practice and Scholarship". This takes place on Monday 12 May at the University of Leeds. Onward transport and discounted registration can be provided (contact David Higgitt for further details).

Call for Papers

Papers and posters are invited for a one-day meeting on the theme "Unstable Ground". The symposium will commence at 10 am on Friday 9 May and precede the field meeting. The meeting covers the following themes: landslide processes and mechanisms; subsidence; material properties and engineering geology; landscape sensitivity and integrated catchment management. Submitted abstracts should not exceed 300 words. A journal special issue is under negotiation. Deadline for abstract submissions is 15 January 2003.

David Higgitt, Bob Allison, David Petley

Department of Geography, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE, UK. (email: d.l.higgitt@durham.ac.uk, r.j.allison@durham.ac.uk, d.n.petley@durham.ac.uk) Tel: 0191 374 2462. Fax: 0191 374 2456. A web site will be linked to the Durham Geography and BGRG home pages in due course (www.geography.dur.ac.uk)





An international conference on: -

ALLUVIAL FANS



8th-13th June 2003

For further information please go to:

<http://alluvialfans.net>

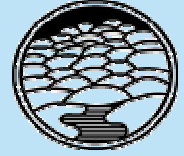
alluvialfans@plymouth.ac.uk

Professional geoscientists & students are invited to meet & discuss the latest research advances in alluvial fans. The conference will be held in Sorbas, Almeria, SE Spain & will involve integrated oral paper / poster presentations together with a series of local field excursions & pre-post conference fieldtrips.





Reports



International seminar on
 Sediment Management in River Systems:
 Basin-Scale Approaches
 Eure, France, 16th-18th September 2002

Most river systems will respond to changing environmental conditions, with the rate and nature of response being determined by the magnitude and type of environmental change. – is this a slightly bold statement? I think it needs to be qualified – it depends on the nature of the river system (stability, level of human interference/control) and the type and magnitude of environmental change. With ever increasing changes in land cover and river use, and with changes in weather and global climatic conditions, river systems are responding to these changes, often at rapid rates. It is increasingly being realised that rivers need to be managed in a sustainable way. With the implementation of several new regulations and directives, such as the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), the importance is focused at the scale of the river basin, resulting in a shift from local scale to trans-boundary water management. Thus, a seminar on the management of fluvial sediment at the river-basin scale is both important and timely, particularly if geomorphologists are to make their voices heard at a time when their advice and expertise are needed most.

This seminar was mainly organised under a framework of cooperation between France and New Zealand and thus was dominated by workers from those two countries. This in no way detracted from the seminar, which was attended by over 70 scientists and managers representing numerous countries, including Australia, Belgium, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, USA. Surprisingly, given the close location and strength of fluvial geomorphology, there was only one representative from the UK.

After a beautiful September day visiting sites of interest in the Drôme basin, the following two days focussed on 25 oral and 12 poster presentations. The first round of talks tended to concentrate on comparisons between sediment dynamics and associated management issues in French and New Zealand river basins. Thus, Hervé Piégay, Bernard Couvert, Didier Jouve, Didier Pont, Daniel Eyraud and Jacky Girel (all France) gave a series of presentations

describing the response of the sediment system to changes in land and river use, mainly since the nineteenth century, in large French river basins, such as the Drôme and Rhône. Of particular interest were the French SDAGE (Master Plan for Water Development and Management) and SAGE (the local equivalent) programmes, which recognise that sediment plays a key role in the conservation, management and restoration of aquatic resources. In many large French rivers, over-extraction of bed-gravels have caused major changes in river behaviour, especially channel incision, and these new management programmes (e.g. SAGE) seem appear to offer considerable potential to reduce further detrimental effects and possibly restore more natural conditions. (Am I right in assuming these talks focused only on gravel/coarse sediments?)

A series of presentations by Noel Trustrum, Mike Page, Graeme Smart, Mike Marden, David Peacock and Murray Hicks (all New Zealand), Tomomi Marutani (Japan) and Basil Gomez (USA) described the situation in New Zealand basins, particularly the Waipaoa and Waiapu. In these river basins, the sediment system is dominated by fine-grained sediment, and is responding to more recent changes in land use. Unlike the French situation, the New Zealand rivers are generally aggrading in response to deforestation in the late nineteenth century. Post-1960 reforestation since the 1960s of sediment source areas with suitable exotic species, such as *Pinus radiata*, seems to be reducing sediment supply from gullies and landslides by an order of magnitude.

Other presentations of personal interest included ones by Gordon Grant (USA) on the response of sediment to forest harvesting in the Pacific Northwest of the US, Gary Brierley (Australia) on an Australian perspective on the practical management of sediment in river rehabilitation programmes, and Ramon Batalla (Spain) and Mat Kondolf (USA) on sediment management strategies for reservoirs in California.

In many ways, the most important presentations were those given by Sophie Allain, Pierre-Marie Combe, Patrick Rio and Aude Farinetti (all France) on the social, economic and juridicial aspects associated with sediment management. With legislation and directives





such as the EU WFD driving how management of river basins (including sediment) is implemented, these socio-economic and juridicialjuridical issues are important, although most of the audience seemed unaware of their significance.

The use of free French wine worked wonders in making participants attend the poster session. Most of the posters described case studies, including Garrett Jackson (USA), Johannes Steiger (France) and Frédéric Liébault (France). Other posters described experimental work (Philippe Laguionie, France) or models (André Paquier, France), while that by Phil Owens (UK) described the EU-funded European Sediment Research Network (SedNet).

This was a very interesting conference and the presentations covered many important sediment management issues. Interestingly, two interrelated topics received very little or no attention: fine-grained sediment (mainly $<63 \mu\text{m}$) (apart from in the New Zealand ones?), and associated contaminants and nutrients. In many situations it is the contaminated nature of the sediment that is of prime concern and drives the need for management. Furthermore. And should you mention that in order to be effective and sustainable, sediment/river management would be one that incorporated all types of sediment and all types of sediment issues.?

One can easily see the issue of sediment management in river basins gaining importance with the increasing pressure on river resources. This conference has helped to start a dialogue between geomorphologists and those that deal with sediment management in rivers at the basin scale. Hervé Piégay and Noel Trustrum (and co-workers) are to be thanked and congratulated for their efforts. A follow-up meeting in New Zealand in 2003 is planned and it is likely that a selection of the papers presented will be published.

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The European Sediment Research Network (SedNet)

Background

Sediment plays a key role in the geomorphological and ecological functioning and behaviour of river basins. Sediment is also an important natural resource and has socio-economic value. Changes in the amount of sediment being delivered to, and transported by, rivers is likely to affect the long-term sustainability of river systems and of the coastal zone. In addition, sediment is a major polluter of fresh and estuarine waters. Not only is the sediment itself a problem (for example siltation of watercourses and reservoirs) but many of the nutrients and contaminants (such as phosphorous, heavy and trace metals, and PCBs) that are associated with the fine-grained fraction are also detrimental to ecosystem functioning and stability. The management of sediment is therefore central to the sustainability of river basins and systems.

It is against this backdrop that the European Sediment Research Network (SedNet) was established in 2002. SedNet is a Thematic Network project funded for 3 years by the European Union (EU) under the EESD (Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development) programme and within area 1.4.1 on 'Abatement of water pollution from contaminated land, landfills and sediments'.

The main aim of SedNet is to provide guidelines for environmentally, socially and economically sustainable sediment management at the river basin scale. Central to SedNet's philosophy is the belief that multidisciplinary, co-ordinated and harmonised approaches are necessary for achieving sustainable sediment management. In addition, with the implementation of several new regulations and directives, such as the EU Water Framework Directive, the scope of water management is being forced to shift from local scale to trans-boundary water management at river basin scales. SedNet has therefore been established to help to structure and facilitate a European approach on this challenging issue.





Within SedNet there are six thematic working groups (WG), each with a different leader(s):

WG1 – Site investigation and characterisation (Eric de Deckere and Joop Bakker – Belgium/The Netherlands)

WG2 – Contaminant behaviour and fate (Damia Barcelo – Spain)

WG3 – Sediment treatment (Giuseppe Bortone – Italy)

WG4 – Sediment planning and decision-making (Phil Owens – UK)

WG5 – Risk management and communication (Susanne Heise – Germany)

WG6 – Financial and economic aspects (Martin O'Connor – France)

Each working group is tasked with organising workshops on specific key issues relating to sediment management. These workshops are essential to identify and reach consensus on the most urgent demands related to the management of sediment. The outputs from these workshops will be used to prepare guidelines for the sustainable management of sediment at local and river basin scales.

Working Group 4

Within SedNet, Phil Owens and Alison Collins of the National Soil Resources Institute, Cranfield University at Silsoe, are leading WG4. This working group is concerned with the planning and decision-making necessary for the management of sediment dynamics and outputs at a river basin scale. The main deliverables that will be completed between 2002 and 2004 will include:

- The building of a common language between problem owners, problem solvers, different countries and the broad range of disciplines involved in sediment management. Exploring and arriving at a consensus on key terms such as 'sediment' and related processes.
- The review of the decision-making process by mapping conceptually, sequentially and geographically the decisions that are performed within sediment management.
- The review of existing guidelines, policies and frameworks that have shaped sediment management including the EU Water Framework Directive. Identifying the constraints and opportunities for sediment management at the river basin scale, where and how sediment 'fits' into existing legislation, gaps within current guidelines and policy, areas of

demanding research, and future policy requirements to support sustainable sediment management.

- The scaling up of sediment dynamics to a catchment context to assess the sources of sediment, and the movement and pathways of transfer from source through to sink. Incorporated within this is the decision-making to determine where sediment is best managed (at source or sink) and how best then to manage and control sediment movement in an integrated way.
- The review and evaluation of the current techniques and tools developed for sediment identification, modelling and management (e.g. sediment surveys, remote sensing, risk assessment procedures, sediment fingerprinting and models). Whether stakeholders are using these tools, how they can be improved and what further tools are required.
- The identification of the main barriers (geographical, socio-economic, political or scientific) that prevent the adoption of integrated sediment planning. How these barriers can be brought down and how best to improve the planning and decision making process.

These key issues will form the basis of four workshops hosted between 2002 and 2004 designed to bring together expertise and experiences in the following topics:

- Opportunities for river basin planning of sediment management: existing guidelines and the EU framework directives
- Sources and transfer of sediments and contaminants in the river basin
- Modelling as a decision-making tool
- Decision-making in sediment management.

For further information on the activities of SedNet please visit the website at: www.sednet.org or contact the SedNet co-ordinator Jos Brils at Brils@mep.tno.nl

For further information on the activities of Working Group 4 please contact either Phil Owens (Philip.owens@bbsrc.ac.uk) or Alison Collins (a.j.Collins@cranfield.ac.uk).





other-fist handshakes with the great man during one or other of the meeting's several receptions/meals. Indeed, this writer heard enough 'How Mike Kirkby has helped me' stories at the meeting to almost warrant a special issue of ESPL...

The meeting was joint with the IGU Commission 'Geomorphic Challenges in the 21st Century', and its subthemes included hillslope processes and landscape evolution, with a specific emphasis on the integration of monitoring, theory and modelling; providing forecasts relevant for sustainable landscape management; and linking geomorphology with other environmental science disciplines. Conceptually, we started small and got bigger. After welcomes from Adrian McDonald (Leeds) on behalf of the School of Geography and John Wainwright (King's London) on behalf of BGRG (Charlie



Figure 2: Discussion around the poster displays

Harris being stuck in traffic), the first session targeted 'Fine-scale processes and mechanisms'. Jean Poesen (KU Leuven, Belgium) chaired this, and John Boardman (Oxford) kicked us off with an account of

recent work by himself and Tim Burt (Durham) on the hydrology of eroding South Downs fields. A negative result here, but not an uninteresting one. Is a preliminary short burst of high-intensity rainfall necessary for runoff to occur on highly infiltrating soils? Next up was Louise Bull (Durham) who described an interesting analysis of spatial rainfall variability using data from SE Spain; the longer-term aim here being to "unlock the secrets of connectivity". A cautionary tale from John Wainwright (King's London) followed. The ministrations of Lady Luck meant that a first attempt at modelling infiltration data from Lucky Hills Catchment 223 at Walnut Gulch, Arizona, gave excellent results but subsequent data gave a much poorer fit: "Now if we'd stopped after the first analysis...". John Wainwright no doubt referred to faeces when first evaluating these results, as did the next speaker, whose presentation focused on modelling the detachment and transport of faecal contaminants. John Quinton (Lancaster) described an application of the new BACTERIA model, which uses a simplification of the Navier-Stokes equations to describe size-selective detachment, redetachment and transport, and the associated surface textural changes. "Lumpers and splitters revisited" opined John Thornes (King's London) in his summing-up of the session, asserting that whereas some papers had – to their detriment – ignored important effects that should have been included, others had "nit-pickingly" included representations of minor

processes that could well have been omitted. John suggested that we need to remember at all times that a model is only an approximation to reality: the challenge is to adequately capture mainline effects without ignoring the important local effects.

Mulling over these wise words we headed for coffee, and the first of the poster sessions (some excellent contributions here). Revived by concentrated caffeine, the session continued with Stuart Lane (Leeds) chairing after giving us details of the next day's 'field class'. Then, due to a programme change, the session's first paper was delivered by The Man Himself, Mike Kirkby. This was a masterly presentation which outlined a linkage of Topmodel with a representation of soil creep. Lean and elegant stuff, this; as usual from Mike. Next came Duncan Wishart (Durham), who summarized work using aerial photography and GIS to understand spatial and



Figure 3: Athol Abrahams receiving the Linton Award from BGRG Chair, Charlie Harris.

temporal change in the upland River Wear, County Durham. One interesting nineteenth-century anthropogenic driver here turns out to be hydraulic mining using 'hushes'. With a focus on processes at a much smaller scale, David Favis-Mortlock (Queen's Belfast) then described a modelling study of rill initiation which suggested a somewhat paradoxical influence of microtopography at differing scales. Running over time, this talk terminated in an unusual manner when Stuart sprang for the off switch during the final overhead. Cooling the pace and bringing the collective focus back to field approaches, Aaron Yair (Hebrew University, Israel) then gave a thoroughly convincing and classically structured presentation which demonstrated just how these things should be done. It seems that infiltration losses are extraordinarily rapid in the arid Sede Boqer experimental catchment, so that much runoff is lost over a flow distance of only 8 m! As a result, there are many discontinuities in the resulting flow sequences, since rainfall events are often of high intensity but short duration. Aaron then outlined what this might mean for the development of slope profiles over long periods of time. To follow this was a paper with – for a change – a laboratory focus: Rorke Bryan (Toronto) began in Jedi Knight fashion by declaring that "The empiricists strike back", then launching into a presentation packed with





fascinating results from flume experiments on the geometry of rill confluences. Here we learned that asymmetrical junctions tend to develop in such a way that the junction becomes more symmetrical, and that scour at such junctions, cutting through the rill's basal seal, can form a pattern which repeats periodically downstream from the junction.

Lunch, then on to session 3 (on 'Evolution of fine-scale forms') which was chaired by Tony Parsons (Leicester) and began with Tim Quine (Exeter) on the subject of tillage redistribution. Tim's specific focus here was tillage's impacts on the spatial variability of soil. Assuming that ^{137}Cs is picking out the pattern of tillage redistribution as the dominant process on his experimental sites, Tim found some relationships between ^{137}Cs residuals and patterns of soil carbon, N, and P. Next, Helen Rendell (Loughborough) switched our gaze to Basilicata, in southern Italy, where erosion of *biancane* (small conical hills) and *calanchi* (hillslope scarps with knife-edge ridges) was measured. Keeping their form as they erode, these unusual morphologies apparently result from competing effects of creep, rainsplash, and rain dislodgement. Janet Hooke (Portsmouth) followed this with a superbly stimulating presentation on the evidence for nonlinear dynamics in meander evolution: provided a sufficiently long time series is available, the temporal trajectory of meander sinuosity can be seen to trace a periodic path, which may continue to cycle or may eventually converge to a fixed value. Nikolaus Kuhn (Clark University, USA) then brought the presentations to a close with a summary of work on the Negev Badlands: rainfall simulation was used to test the hypothesis that, despite this being an apparently homogenous environment, ridges are runoff generating areas and slopes are sinks. Finally, Jean Poesen (KU Leuven) led discussion, observing that the afternoon's papers tended to focus more on interactions between processes whereas those in the morning session tended to concentrate more on single processes. Following 'the cup that cheers' and a chance to look at the second batch of posters, the fourth and final session of the day began. Tim Quine (Exeter) chaired this, introducing Martin Evans (Manchester) whose presentation focused on eroding blanket peat bogs, with an emphasis on slope-channel coupling. Anton Van Rompaey (KU Leuven) then considered the impacts of collectivisation on sediment supply in Eastern Europe. This modelling study made use of SEDEM, which produced good results despite the need to retain Belgian parameterisation due to a lack of local data. Forest hydrology and sediment movement was the focus of the paper from Maria Sala (Barcelona, Spain) and Adolfo Calvo (Valencia, Spain). In NE Spain such areas have a more complex spatial pattern than in more arid Mediterranean areas, it seems. The final paper of the day was from Andy Rebeiro-Hargrave (King's London) who gave us an overview of cellular automaton modelling,

including a simple model for gully growth. Jean Poesen then wrapped things up by summarising the papers, followed by general discussion. The geomorphological chat continued at a wine reception in the School of Geography, and with its vigour undiminished (but possibly with some reduction in sharpness of focus) in various pubs afterward. Till a late hour, for some.

Day two began with the field trip, led by Stuart Lane. In glorious Wharfedale we also heard Ian Evans (Durham) on the area's geology and glacial history, Joe Holden (Leeds) on peat hydrology, and Adrian McDonald (Leeds) on water quality and microbiological problems. A fine day, but with a lunch that, for some, was slightly marred by The Innkeeper. A letup in the food flux there may have been, but there was no letup in the flow of geomorphology following our return to Leeds. In the palatial lecture theatre of the Business School we heard Mike Kirkby's Frost Lecture. With a title from a crossword puzzle, the motif of this talk was 'geomorphology as a puzzle', with Mike looking back at 40 years of his research and "wondering what he has been doing". Covering a full range of spatial and temporal scales, we were treated not just to a magisterial overview of this vastly impressive body of work but also to some illuminating insights into the roots of Mike's thinking and methods. For example: Mike's feeling that computer code for a geomorphological model should be no more than 10 lines long due to early experiences with paper tape input; tales of 'light touch' supervision by the late Dick Chorley; and the role of continued advocacy in the wide acceptance and usage of Topmodel. This was by no means solely a review of past work, however. Evidence of Mike's continued and continuing efforts to refine and extend modelling concepts appeared throughout. "What is an acceptable level of complexity for models at a particular scale? How might we best ensure that nonlinear responses are real and not model artefacts?" Such questions will surely set the agenda for geomorphological modelling in the 21st century.

Then after the lecture, the reception! Held in the foyer of the Business School, this was in honour of Mike, and also gave us a chance to thank Fiona Kirkby for all she's done for ESPL. Thanks Fiona! Yet even after an excellent buffet and ample wine, it seems that some geomorphologists cannot stop geomorphologizing. A quick headcount in a bar of the local pub near closing time indicated a concentration of c. 30% geomorphologists: not bad for a Friday night in Leeds.

On the final day of the conference we got bigger. The first session of the morning was 'Process mechanisms at coarse scales', commencing with a paper by Kenji Kashiwaya (Kanazawa University, Japan) who asked "How long does an earthquake continue to change the earth's surface?" This focused on sedimentation rates following the 1995 Kobe earthquake, using supplemental information from heavy rainfalls in 1938 and 1967. It also included the immortal line, "This model was only





formulated the day before yesterday so we don't have any results yet". Next was Simon Dadson (Cambridge) who presented a model for landscape evolution which represents bedrock landsliding as a stochastic process, and uses nonlinear diffusion to represent shallow landsliding. Charlie Harris (Cardiff) then outlined investigations into the nature of periglacial solifluction by means of freeze-thaw experiments using a large centrifuge. Scaling of processes was a major theme here: deformation turns out to be as a plastic solid rather than as a viscous fluid, as was previously thought. In the final paper before coffee, Nick Drake (King's London) described a study to quantify error propagation in a model for soil erosion across southern England: with a 30 m spatial resolution, this was used to model the effects of heavy rainfall on 11th October 2000. Large total errors here! Paul Bishop (Glasgow) acted as discussant and, among other points, emphasised the need to focus on errors in data and their propagation.

After coffee, Chris Brookes (Leeds) presented a paper on application of Topmodel to the Upper Wharfedale catchment, quantifying the effects of changing DEM resolution on patterns of saturated areas. The focus then shifted to gully initiation in Colorado in the paper from Greg Tucker (Oxford): a modelling study indicated that gullies here can have their birth in small but intense convective storms, and that in this strongly nonlinear system there appears to be a marked feedback between vegetation and erosion under some circumstances. Following, Phil Ashworth (Brighton) became the second Jedi Knight of the meeting, commenting "The physical modellers strike back" during his presentation, which made use of a 1 : 50 scale model of a braided river in a 4 x 5 m flume to quantify avulsion frequency. The dynamics of braided rivers are different from those of alluvial fans: this was the take-home message from this interesting paper. Paul Bishop again reported on the papers in this session.

Lunch, then (after John Wainwright introduced the swish new-look BGRG website) the first session on 'Evolution of landforms'. Jamie Woodward (Leeds) began with a foray into the Pleistocene, asking "What is the date of glacial forms in the Pindus Mountains, Albania?" In a study which updates Bruno Messerli's classic 1960s work on Mediterranean glaciation, Jamie came to an unexpected conclusion. Next, Paul Bishop (Glasgow) focused our attention upon knickpoint retreat in fluvial channels incised into bedrock. From a modelling exercise using data from SE Australia, it seems that knickpoints are preserved if a streampower-based relationship is used, but are smoothed out if shear stress is used. Again we came to the question: what is the optimum complexity for process descriptions at given spatial and temporal scales? Cristina Persano (Glasgow) then gave a geologically-flavoured presentation which again focused on SE Australia but journeyed considerably further into the past, with thermochronology being used to constrain the dates. More geology from Glasgow rounded off the session, with the paper by Trevor Hoey (Glasgow) concentrating on the tectonic setting of geomorphic forms in southern Spain. Mike Kirkby summed up these four papers, reminding us that they were revisiting the 'big' questions about landscape evolution, and that this is both desirable and exciting for

geomorphology. But, he asked, are hillslope processes in these studies being described in an appropriate way with respect to scale?

After pondering these thoughts over tea, we returned for the final session of the meeting, which continued the theme of landform evolution. With Janet Hooke (Portsmouth) chairing, we opened with Tim Burt (Durham) revisiting Bicknoller Combe in Somerset's Quantock Hills. "How old is my valley?" he asked, and used Mike Kirkby's SLOPEN model to try to find out. Tom Coulthard (Aberystwyth) then gave another modelling-based paper, using his CAESAR model to simulate the evolution of four Yorkshire rivers over the last 9000 years, using the same scenarios of climate and land use throughout. We learned that different zones of each catchment appear to respond quite differently to the same forcings (and that each run of Tom's model takes about two months!). The final paper came from Martin Gude (Jena, Germany) who told us of recent work in the HIVAL project on the Kärkevagge valley in northern Sweden, building upon classic work by Anders Rapp. An admirable use of multiple methodologies here, with (for example) GIS being used to construct a geomorphological process map and geophysical techniques being used to construct depth profiles, which in turn are used to constrain the mass balance accounting. Martin and colleagues were able to come up with estimates for the frequency and magnitude of rock falls which compared very well (too well?) with present-day observations. Mike Kirkby then acted as rapporteur once again, noting that tea time had been a kind of fault line between a more geological approach and a more geomorphological approach to landscape evolution, and that we need to learn to bring these together. More generally, there is a need to promote a dialogue between work at fine and coarse scales: this is at the heart of links between process and form. We are all part of earth system science (or whatever we might choose to call it) so as such we should focus our studies on the earth system at all scales. And still it was not over! Following presentation of the Wiley Award, the Sweeting Dissertation Award and the Gordon Warwick Award, this highly satisfying meeting was brought to a most satisfying end by Athol Abrahams (SUNY Buffalo, USA) with his Linton Lecture on 'A sediment transport model for channels and hillslopes'. The new relationship outlined here is relatively simple but promises to be widely applicable, and thus is likely to be much used. The Conference Dinner and the BGRG AGM followed. "If you seek my monument, look about you." The sheer quality and variety of geomorphological research at the BGRG 2002 Annual Conference, all of which owed some debt to Mike Kirkby's work, was ample evidence of a monument which will thrive as long as scientists continue to study the surface of our planet.

Dave Favis-Mortlock, Queen's University Belfast





MISCELLANY

Thesis abstracts

GROUND PENETRATING RADAR TECHNIQUES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF SUBSURFACE MOISTURE VARIABILITY

Matthew Charlton (Doctor of Philosophy)
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This thesis describes the development of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) processing techniques for spatially distributed estimation of subsurface moisture. Subsurface moisture is a very difficult variable to measure on a consistent and spatially comprehensive basis. Traditional measurement techniques are limited because they are time consuming, invasive and destructive. Subsurface profiling with GPR is non-invasive and rapid. However, existing GPR based methods for moisture estimation are not based on radar profiling but on signal velocity analyses taken from common mid-point (CMP) soundings. These are inappropriate for investigations of subsurface moisture variability at either large scales or high resolution because they are time consuming and spatially imprecise. The aim of the thesis was to develop moisture measurement techniques applicable in radar profiling mode.

Using a series of controlled laboratory experiments the relationship between a number of properties of the GPR signal derived in reflection profiling mode (RPM) and Volumetric Moisture Content (VMC) is investigated. Significant relationships were found for trace amplitude, amplitude spectra, and amplitude envelope with VMC for a variety of earth materials and situations. The form of these relationships is strongly dependent on the subsurface profile of soil moisture, which is controlled by the hydraulic properties of each material. The techniques developed are applied in the field to the detection of moisture bodies associated with urban water leaks (in collaboration with Thames Water Utilities Ltd.) and to a plot-scale investigation of temporally varying moisture patterns on a hillslope in one of the Plynlimon catchments in Wales. Although site-specific calibration of the GPR for VMC is still required, this research shows that much can be understood in terms of subsurface moisture variation using GPR in reflection profiling mode.

Quantitative correspondence between the GPR and invasive measurements of moisture is limited by differences in sampled area and depth of investigation. GPR specific errors are introduced by the coupling of the radar with the ground surface, and the impact of (non-water controlled) profile (dielectric) variability on the GPR signal return. Improvement in GPR determination of moisture can be facilitated through further investigations

designed to:

- (a) identify the effect of moisture distribution on GPR-VMC,
- (b) overcome uncertainty in the subsurface volume sampled using GPR,
- (c) test alternative antenna configurations, and
- (d) test the technique over a greater range of subsurface environments.

FORAMINIFERAL ECOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY ISOLATION BASINS IN NORTHWEST SCOTLAND

Damien Laidler (Doctor of Philosophy)
University of Durham

Isolation basins contain high-resolution records of environmental change relating to RSL and climate since the last glacial maximum, and provide valuable data in constraining regional and global ice sheet and earth rheology models. A key weakness in current research is a lack of information regarding the identification of the reference tide level of different stages of basin isolation, and the role of factors such as freshwater input in controlling palaeosalinity. To address these issues, this thesis reports data collected from modern isolation basins from twenty sites in northwest Scotland.

The basins range in size and elevation of their sill within the tidal cycle. Surface sediment samples were analysed for their foraminiferal composition, and other analyses of water chemistry and sedimentology were completed. Statistical analyses show a poor correlation between sill altitude and fauna. A transfer function was therefore produced based on average salinity, but calibration of this using fossil data was unsuccessful. This research demonstrates that the modern training set lacks adequate analogues for many of the fossil foraminiferal assemblages recorded in previous work. Likely causes for this include differences in the relative abundance of foraminiferal species between the modern and fossil data-sets, and the fact that no modern basin was found which has the water depth and salinity required for reconstruction of the fully marine stage.

Because of these factors, foraminiferal data should be used with care in the definition of the indicative meaning of isolation basin sea-level index points. The statistical methods do, however, yield the first detailed understanding of the distributions of foraminifera in contemporary shallow water isolation basins, particularly with reference to their optimum and tolerance values for environmental variables. Variable salinity species such as *Miliammina fusca* are dominant in the training set, displaying their broad tolerance of environmental conditions.





**GEOMORPHOLOGICAL EVIDENCE
FOR THE PATTERN OF DEGLACIATION
AROUND THE DRUMOCHTER PASS,
CENTRAL GRAMPIAN HIGHLANDS,
SCOTLAND**

**Sven Lukas (MSc Diplom-Geograph)
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In this MSc thesis geomorphological mapping at 1:10,000 combined with sedimentological logging was employed to reconstruct the pattern of deglaciation and to test existing reconstructions in the study area comprising 56 km² surrounding the Drumochter Pass. Landforms can be grouped into those (a) confined to the upper reaches of slopes on the eastern side of the study area, (b) confined to the valley floors and (c) located at an intermediate level. Those in (a) are interpreted as representing successive positions of a former ice sheet margin. The synchronous development of an ice-dammed lake in Coire Mhic-sith is well documented by geomorphological and sedimentological evidence and probably drained non-catastrophically along an ice sheet margin that retreated south-westwards. The landforms in (b) include *inter alia* "hummocky moraine" which consists of chains of moraine ridges and mounds that are interpreted as recessional moraines formed by valley glaciers that retreated towards the SW and W. During this later phase of deglaciation, another ice-dammed lake developed in the present basin of Loch Garry.

The mapping results and their interpretation differ significantly from Sissons' (1974) proposal of an ice cap of Loch Lomond Stadial (LLS) age sourced on the Gaick Plateau NE of the study area that extended towards the W via Coire Mhic-sith and joins ice from the south-west (Sissons *et al.*, 1973). As the evidence for the ice-dammed lakes is undisturbed, this could not have been the case. The recent reinterpretation of hummocky moraine and the failure to present important sedimentological information, e.g. for the existence of ice-dammed lakes are most likely the causes for the deviations. Consequently, the two former reconstructions have to be regarded as too simplistic and the existence of a Gaick Plateau ice cap must be strongly questioned, an interpretation that is supported by hitherto unpublished results of geological mapping carried out by the BGS on the Gaick Plateau and in the NW of the study area.

The ice sheet probably dates to the Dimlington Stadial (DS) as evidence of older glaciations has not survived on such a large scale. Valley glacier activity is tentatively attributed to a later phase of the DS due to landforms at an intermediate level (c) that suggests *continuous south-westward retreat*. A readvance for example of LLS age is tentatively refuted due to the enormous size of an accumulation area required in the SW and other indicators. However, the timing of deglaciation remains speculative as dating techniques could not yet be applied; further work is still ongoing in the area and its surroundings. The results of this thesis will be published in detail later this year.

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**HIGH SPATIAL RESOLUTION SOIL
EROSION MODELLING USING
REMOTE SENSING AND GIS**

**Nadeem Hashem (Doctor of Philosophy)
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South-east Spain is subject to soil erosion and land degradation as a result of natural and human-induced factors such as the change in land-use pattern, coupled with a semi-arid climate. Estimates of soil erosion are needed by decision makers in order to quantify the soil loss under various scenarios and different land-use patterns so that policies of sustainable use of land resources can be developed and implemented. The purpose of this study is to explore the potential of using high resolution aerial photography and GIS to derive the parameters controlling the soil loss spatially at the local scale and then implement and validate a soil-erosion model. This enables the automation of the process of soil-erosion modelling to make it cost effective and less labour intensive.

The Thornes model was selected for soil-erosion modelling in this study because it can be implemented in a spatially distributed manner and it needs little data to parameterise. Four factors control the soil loss in the Thornes equation: slope, vegetation cover, soil erodibility, and overland-flow. A Digital Elevation Model (DEM) was derived from the aerial photographs using digital photogrammetry techniques and slope was then calculated from the DEM. Various methods of classification and vegetation indices were reviewed to map the vegetation cover and the mixture modelling method was implemented because in this method the shade can be mapped and consequently removed from the vegetation map. A co-occurrence matrix and image texture analysis was used to correct the vegetation errors in a few pixels. Soil erodibility was calculated using Wischmeier's equation.

The Carson and Kirkby model was used to estimate the overland flow because it was shown by other studies to produce satisfactory results in the study area. Deterministic and stochastic approaches were used for overland-flow modelling and the first approach produced results of higher accuracy and, thus, was implemented. The parameters controlling the soil loss were then integrated according to Thornes equation in a GIS environment producing the soil loss map. This map was validated against measured values resulted from rainfall simulation experiments and the accuracy was satisfactory. The effect of land-use change by ploughing on soil loss was assessed and it was shown that ploughing may increase soil loss by up to 500%.

**CONTROLS ON SUPRAGLACIAL
OUTLET DEVELOPMENT DURING
GLACIAL OUTBURST FLOODS**





Matthew J. Roberts (Doctor of Philosophy)
Staffordshire University, U.K.

This project arose from the need to evaluate existing knowledge of intraglacial floodwater routing and supraglacial outlet development during glacial outburst floods (jökulhlaups). The overall aim of this thesis is to produce a refined model of the controls on supraglacial outlet development during jökulhlaups. This aim is fulfilled by addressing a series of hypotheses, which are designed to: (i) establish the glaciolydraulic conditions required for the formation of supraglacial jökulhlaup outlets; (ii) explain the controls on the position and morphology of supraglacial outlets during jökulhlaups; and (iii) explain the controls on the evolution (i.e. temporal changes in position and morphology) of supraglacial outlets during single flood events. Field evidence is presented from two Icelandic glaciers: Skeiðarárjökull and Sólheimajökull, which were both inundated recently by linearly rising jökulhlaups.

The following hitherto unknown findings constitute a significant advance in our understanding of jökulhlaup hydrodynamics. (i) Transient increases in basal water pressure, can induce the temporary, time-transgressive formation of linked cavity drainage across large zones of the glacier bed. Linked cavity drainage facilitates hydraulic jacking and associated down-glacier transfer of potential energy in the form of a basal flood wave; consequently, supraglacial jökulhlaup outbursts form in response to transient hydraulic conditions imposed at the front of a basal flood wave. (ii) The gradient of excess basal water pressure over glaciostatic pressure governs the propensity for englacial floodwater routing. Rapid, steady increases in basal hydraulic pressure enable retro-feeding of pre-flood intraglacial drainage circuits. Conversely, rapid, unsteady increases in basal hydraulic pressure, which exceed glaciostatic pressure and fracture toughness at regular intervals through the glacier profile, facilitate intrusive hydrofracturing from glacier bed to ice surface. (iii) Retro-feeding of englacial drainage produces supraglacial outlets that have a plan and profile morphology dictated mainly by the shape of near-surface drainage structures. Where hydrofractures reach the glacier surface, their strike and planimetric length is an important control on outlet morphology. (iv) The depth beneath the glacier surface at which single hydrofractures transform into complex fracture networks is fundamental in determining the plan and profile morphology of fracture outlets. (v) A qualitative inverse-relationship exists between the magnitude of near-surface floodwater pressure and the extent to which pre-existing glaciological structures control floodwater routing and outlet morphology. (vi) Once basal water pressure exceeds the weight of a water column extending vertically from glacier bed to ice surface, the prime control on outlet evolution is the rapidity of water-pressure-increase during the period of supraglacial discharge. Comparatively rapid rates of increase in supraglacial discharge are associated with sudden changes in outlet morphology, and *vice versa* for lower rates of discharge increase.

Although the revised model presented here provides a tenable explanation for supraglacial outlet development at Skeiðarárjökull and Sólheimajökull, it anticipated that new working hypotheses from the model could be applied to other glaciers affected by linearly rising jökulhlaups.

The position and morphology of supraglacial outlets provide important controls on the spatial and temporal impact of jökulhlaups. The development of supraglacial jökulhlaup outlets provides a new mechanism for rapid englacial debris entrainment.

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**LATE HOLOCENE INTERTIDAL
 SEDIMENTATION: A
 LITHOSTRATIGRAPHIC APPROACH TO
 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL
 RECONSTRUCTION IN THE WAINWAY
 CHANNEL, ROMNEY MARSH,
 SOUTHEAST ENGLAND**

Paul Stupples (Doctor of Philosophy)
Department of Env. & Geographical Sciences,
The Manchester Metropolitan University

Our understanding of intertidal environments is based primarily on studies which focus on the extremes of the temporal and spatial resolution spectrum. A gap exists relating to the processes and controls which influence temporal and spatial evolution of intertidal environments over periods of decades to centuries.

The Wainway channel, part of the Romney Marsh complex in southeast England, developed over only about 2-300 years during the late Holocene, from a significant tidal inlet, to a minor tidal creek tightly constrained by extensive and mature salt marsh. A lithostratigraphic approach was adopted to the interpretation of the Wainway's depositional history. This combined high resolution temporal and spatial analysis of the texture, structure and magnetic properties of the subsurface sediments, together with mapping of the relict topography of the Wainway, absolute dating of the shell remains, and relative dating based on the well preserved documentary records covering the period leading to final inking during the 17th century.

Two distinctive periods of sedimentation have been identified along a 2 km length of the Wainway on East Guldeford Level. Firstly, the high energy, rapid (0.5 m/y) infill of the tidal inlet with a suite of tidal rhythmites, which clearly record tidal deposition over periods of days to years, and isolated storm layers. Deposition was initiated by alterations to hydraulic boundary conditions driven by salt marsh progradation and land-claim some distance from the study site around the head of the inlet. After infill of the major tidal inlet a period of increasingly low energy tidal flat and salt marsh sedimentation commenced. This saw much localised variability in patterns of sedimentation controlled by proximity to channels and creeks, but no well developed spatial trends across the study site.

Models derived from a series of lithostratigraphic & morphosedimentary units describe the evolution of the Wainway & successfully relate the sedimentary evidence to the historical records. A more general model depicts the episodic mesoscale (decades to centuries) response of a back-barrier tidal channel to marsh progradation and land-claim, & identifies key thresholds which control distinct phases of sedimentation and morphology.





A postgraduate plea for help :-

PALAEOFLOOD HYDROLOGY IN N. THAILAND???

Renée Kidson, PhD student, Department of Geography,
Cambridge Email: RLK23@cam.ac.uk

But tropical environments aren't supposed to preserve palaeoflood evidence, are they? Well, subhumid (monsoon) tropics, actually. My PhD field site is on the Mae Chaem River, in Chiang Mai Province, Northern Thailand. When you 'get a goody', one of those rare rivers whose geometry & drainage is actually conducive to palaeoflood evidence preservation, despite the climate, well, Prof Paul Carling (Southampton), with a British Council LINK Project in Thailand, couldn't help himself... Add one Australian PhD student registered at Cambridge & co-supervised by Professor Keith Richards, add water (>1500 cms), mix thoroughly, & we have one hell of an opportunity...

Why bother with palaeofloods? Well, you can survey the elevation of the evidence. You can model flow in their river reach, & work out discharge of these big ancient flood events. If you can date the deposits with incorporated organic material (courtesy of a NERC Radiocarbon grant from East Kilbride), you might even have a crack at estimating their Return Period.

This is the key utility of palaeoflood hydrology – if carefully done & the correct evidence is available, it can assist in extending flood frequency graphs for a region. It can also be used to study climatic non-stationarity – all with the goal of providing a better flood forecasting perspective. There has never been a greater need for hydrologists and their expertise – look at Germany recently – particularly in this new, uncertain age of extreme natural events. Sounds simple, doesn't it? There's just one catch...

Figure 4 shows Ob Luang (Thai: 'Gorge, Big'), on the upstream end of the reach I am building my hydraulic model for. There are all kinds of fascinating bits of palaeoflood evidence in & downstream of Ob Luang: teak logs lodged in caves high up in the gorge (a relict of early 20thC logging days); sediment slackwater deposits containing organic material, sheltered behind bedrock spurs in gully mouths; plastic from the last series of (unusually large) recent floods. A palaeohydrologist's delight!

I am lucky, the Thai Royal Irrigation Department (RID) is a project partner, & they have a well-maintained gauging station downstream, with 50-odd years good-quality gauge data – & a met record to boot.

Step-backwater modelling (using HEC-RAS) was our

obvious modelling choice. I generate a surveyed long profile of the elevations of the various bits of flood evidence, & then I manipulate the model's input



Fig 4: Fancy surveying this or how about modelling it?!

discharge until we have a good match for water surface elevations along the reach for different flood events. Because we have good gauging control, we can calibrate the model against real flow data to maximise accuracy.

The trouble with Manning's n...The hydraulic models, even calibrated ones, require an estimation of the roughness coefficient – Manning's n – specific to each discharge event. Now, I'm just a poor 1st Yr PhD student – I've never done this before, right? So, we need to estimate Manning's n. There aren't that many experienced hydraulic engineers who specialise in bedrock-confined channels – funny that. So I'm using a range of techniques: quantitative (eg. Limerinos, Jarrett equations); qualitative (photos from Barnes (1967) and Chow (1959)); model iteration, etc. I am also examining the effects of model scale & data resolution upon the 'calibration role' of Manning's n. But, here I am exploring a fourth option – an Expert Panel Approach. We have Geomorphologists, hydrologists, hydraulists, engineers, surveyors – that have more experience than I (we hope!) How about I build a website, ask all our "Experts" to take a peek at some photos of our key Thailand sites, & supply me with their best guess on Manning's n, online? After all, 'expert estimation' has been the traditionally-used method for selecting a Manning's n for alluvial channels for years...the USGS still runs a training course on Manning's n estimation. So, the knowledge is out there...

Calling Manning's n estimators. This article is thus actually a plea. If you've looked at rivers for a while (particularly gravel ones, &), please help me out! My web address is: *Manning's n Expert Panel Experiment (MANEPE)* <http://www.srcf.ucam.org/~rlk23/Manning/>

If you know people who can help, please do email this link to them, too. Hopefully this will generate an interesting set of stats. I will share the published results with all the participants – that's part of the deal.





Grants Available From the B.G.R.G.

The B.G.R.G. runs a range of different grant programmes spanning research and education initiatives and conference travel. Full details of eligibility, and application forms are available on the B.G.R.G. Website at <http://boris.qub.ac.uk/bgrg>. The main categories of grant available are:

Research Grants

Funds are available to contribute to small projects or specific costs of research. These grants are available to all non-postgraduate members of the B.G.R.G. and are judged on their scientific merit. Maximum £1000

Postgraduate Research Funds

Funds available to all postgraduate members registered for a higher degree. They are primarily to support students who do not receive full funding, or where an opportunity has arisen to add value to an existing PhD programme. Maximum £500

Postgraduate Conference Fund

This fund assists postgraduate members in presenting a paper or poster at a conference and is intended to cover part of the total cost of registration, accommodation and travel.

B.G.R.G. Fixed Term Working Groups

The B.G.R.G. funds up to three working groups at one time to enable members to meet to discuss specific topic areas Funding up to £500/year

Long Term Geomorphological Monitoring

Aims to supply small sums (up to £200 pa) to support individuals to maintain long term monitoring sites (at least 10 years)

Promotion of Geomorphology in Schools

Grants of up to £500 for projects involving school teachers and pupils that will raise the profile of Geomorphology in schools

Task forces to develop proposals for major research projects

Funding of up to £1000 available for groups of members aiming to develop major proposals for submission to external funding bodies.



Diary
BGRG

Meetings

Diary
Sponsored

2003

January 13-14	B.G.R.G. January Meeting Cryospheric Systems, The Geological Society <i>Contact: HarrisC@Cardiff.ac.uk</i>
April 7-9	Braided Rivers conference, Birmingham <i>Contact: g.smith.4@bham.ac.uk</i>
May 9-11	Spring Field Meeting North Yorkshire moors & coast <i>Contact: d.l.higgitt@durham.ac.uk</i>
May	BGRG Working Group on Geo chemical sediments and Geomor phology, Leicester. <i>Contact : sjm11@le.ac.uk</i>
June 8-13	Alluvial fans conference, Sorbas, Spain. <i>Contact: alluvialfans@plymouth.ac.uk</i>
September 3-5	Sessions at the RGS/IBG, London, <i>initial contact: d.s.thomas@shf.ac.uk</i>
September 5-7	BGRG AGM, Oxford, <i>contact heather.viles@geog.ox.ac.uk</i>

DIARY





New Grants

Institution	Investigator(s)	Title	Funding Body	Start Date	Amount
University of Wales Swansea	Rick Shakesby Will Blake Stefan Doerr	Erosional Consequences of different intensities of fire-induced soil water repellency in the 'Sydney forest fire' region	NERC	Summer 2002	£89,000

New Appointments and Promotions

New Postgraduates...update

The list of new PhD students will be published in the next edition of Geophemera.

This will hopefully allow the production of a more complete list.

Institution	Name	Position	Start Date	Previous appointment
University of Oxford	Dr John Boardman	Reader in Geomorphology & Land Degradation	Sept 2002	University of Oxford
Liverpool John Moores University	Dr Tim Stott	Reader in Physical Geography & Outdoor Education	Sept 2002	Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography & Outdoor Education, Liverpool John Moores University
Brighton University	Prof. Callum Firth	Head of the School of the Environment	Sept 2002	Head of Department, Brunel University





Diary Part 2

Events Convened by organisations other than the BGRG

Date	Conference	Location	Abstracts	Contact
2002				
Nov. 17-23	Japan-China joint international Geomorphological Conference	Kunming, China	August 31 2002	kyosaiton@post.saitama-u.ac.jp
Dec. 6-10	Linking Observations to Models in Geomorphology and Hydrology	San Francisco, California		John.wainwright@kcl.ac.uk
Dec. 12-16	Land use change and geomorphic, soil and water processes in tropical mountain environments. Symposium	Quito, Ecuador	Sept 15 2002	www.kuleuven.ac.be/geography/fgr/leg/symposia/ecuador/
2003				
Jan 6-8	Quaternary Land-Ocean correlations: recent advances	Newcastle		Darrel.maddy@ncl.ac.uk
Jan 15-18	Archaeology and environmental history of the southern deserts	Canberra, Australia		M.smith@nma.gov.au
Mar. 4-8	Soils in Archaeological and Cultural context session at AAG	New Orleans	25 Sept	beacht@georgetown.edu http://www.aag.org
Mar. 26-30	QRA field meeting—Western Highland Boundary, Scotland	Glasgow		devans@geog.gla.ac.uk
May 8-12	QRA field meeting northern highlands, Scotland	Stirling		rt1@stir.ac.uk
July 23-31	XVIth INQUA Congress	Reno, U.S.A.		http://www.dri.edu/DEES/INQUA2003/inqua_home.htm
2004				
Jan 6-9	Annually banded records in the Quaternary	Bangor		oss048@bangor.ac.uk

JOINING THE BRITISH GEOMORPHOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Why join the BGRG?

- Contact with a world-wide body of geomorphologists;
- Geophemera, the tri-annual newsletter of the BGRG containing news, views, reports, forthcoming conference announcements, registers of new students and grants and much, much more;
- access to a variety of research and conference funding opportunities (£13,500 was awarded last year); funds targeted directly at postgraduates;
- opportunities to attend fixed-term working groups on specific developments or topic areas within Geomorphology, postgraduate training workshops, conferences and field trips;
- discounted subscriptions to Earth Surface Processes & Landforms (£65) and other Journals – e.g. Hydrological Processes, Journal of Quaternary Science (£85 each) & Geomorphology.

How do I join and how much does it cost?

Please print out a membership form from the BGRG website, complete the form, and send it to the BGRG Administrator (Christine James) together with your subscription. The form will be used both as a record of your wish to take up membership of the BGRG and to establish a computerised database of members. The information will be used in the strictest confidence and, under the Data Protection Act, all members will have access to their own records on request. The annual subscription rate to the BGRG is £20 for full membership (or £50 for five years for overseas members). Unwaged, fulltime students and retired members pay £8 per year whilst postgraduate students may pay £20 for a three-year membership, commencing at the beginning of their research project. Subscriptions may be paid by standing order (by completing the form from the website and sending to your bank and the BGRG Administrator), cheque, or money order. Administration costs can be reduced if members pay by standing order. Cheques should be made payable to the British Geomorphological Research Group and made out in pounds sterling. Other currencies cannot be accepted.

