



BSG Annual General Meeting 2024 Wednesday 3rd September

Chair's Review & Strategy Update

Louise Callard

Agenda



1. Welcome & apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting, and key 2023/2024 activities
3. Society Risk Register
4. Financial overview
5. Membership update
6. Sub-committee updates
7. ESPL and Wiley update
8. Thanks to outgoing committee members
9. Welcome to new committee members
10. New Chair introduction
11. AOB

Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes

Minutes of the last AGM:

<https://www.geomorphology.org.uk/agm-papers/>

Results of the presidential elections

To be shared at the meeting

Executive Committee

| Role | Name | Upcoming role changes |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Chair | Louise Callard | Annie Ockelford |
| Senior Deputy Chair | Annie Ockelford | Chris Hackney |
| Junior Deputy Chair | Chris Hackney | Nominations required |
| Honorary Secretary | Fiona Caithness | |
| Honorary Treasurer | Matt Westoby | Nominations required |
| Membership Secretary | Josh Ahmed | |
| Research Vice Chair | Lucy Clarke | Nominations required |
| Research Ordinary Secretary | Fiona Clubb | |
| Postgraduate Vice Chair | Jayesh Mukherjee | |
| Professional Vice Chair | Matilda Biddulph | |
| Professional Ordinary Secretary | Eleanore Miles and Gez Foster | Nominations required |
| Education & Outreach Vice Chair | Hywel Griffiths | |
| Education & Outreach Secretary | Hannah Williams | Nominations required |
| Comms & Publications Vice Chair | Stuart Greive | |
| Comms & Publications Ordinary Secretary | Lizzie Dingle | |

BSG Strategy 2024-2029



Vision: To ensure geomorphology as a discipline plays a leading role in developing knowledge and understanding of the changing natural environment and its relationship with society.

Mission: The Society is dedicated to advancing the science of geomorphology, promoting the discipline, and providing a community and services for those involved in geomorphological education teaching, research, application and to those who have a passion for geomorphology.

Strategy

Advocate: to empower and support our diverse community in the production, publishing, teaching, and application of geomorphological research.

Engage: to engage and serve the Society's members, cognate organisations, and the general public.

Apply: to embed geomorphological techniques and knowledge within education, practice, policy and society.

Sustain: to sustain the community, reputation, finances and environmental future of the Society

Key Activities 2023/2024



- Finalised the BSG 5-year strategy
- Strengthened our relationship with cognate organisations
 - Liasing with RGS and QRA to set up joint EDI events: First joint led EDI panel held March, IWD social media event.
 - Liasing with President of the Geological society and Chair of engineering geology. We now have a representative from the EG (Paul Fish) on professional sub-committee
- Communication: full Communications and Publication Committee team. Working hard to improve the communication and website.
- Climate change and carbon: continuing to push this agenda primarily through monitoring grants.

Key Activities – EDI

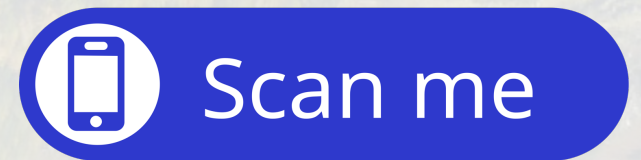


- Formalisation of the BSG EDI statement
- Embedding EDI throughout the new BSG 5-year strategy
- Formation of a new EDI steering group comprising volunteers from each of the sub-committees
- Undertaking scoping analysis to identify area within existing material/website/publications where EDI can be improved
- Continuation of sponsorship the Fi Wi Roads internship
 - Massive thanks to this year's interns, Anaya and Arianna, who have helped deliver the Loughborough meeting

Key Activities - EDI



- Launch of the first annual EDI members survey
 - The survey will remain open until September 9th.
 - This will be an annual survey whose aim is to benchmark and allow tracking of progress against key demographic data and feedback on BSG activities with a view of improving our EDI record.
 - The survey is voluntary and anonymised.



BSG Risk Register



This time last year

| Risk | Mitigation |
|--|---|
| Open access journal futures may affect income from ESPL; a lack of nurturing of relationship with major sponsor, Wiley, may also affect income | Greater focus on Wiley relationship to get best deal for BSG from contract renewal in 2027. |
| Over-reliance on Wiley income stream | Exec Committee to assess other funding streams to broaden Society finance base |
| Relationship with Wiley at risk due to a lack of a Chair for the Comms & Publications Committee. | Secure new Chair for Comms & Publications Committee, and ensure they focus on building relationship with Wiley. |



Financial Review

Financial overview

- We maintain a comfortable financial position and hold £170,840 in cash and investments.
- We aim to return to our target reserve level of ~£89k at our annual ‘low point’ (April 2025).
- Wiley income in 2024 is £2.7k higher than 2023, at £79,193. The increase is attributable to inflation adjustment applied to our Wiley grant. *ESP&L* royalties remain stable (£52.4k v £52.7k in 2023).
- Year-to-date (YTD) membership income (early August) is £4,118, a decrease of £1.1k relative to 2023, but in line with the five-year YTD mean.
- Our investments continue to grow (~4%/yr). We are considering increasing this position to hedge against inflation and improve financial resilience.

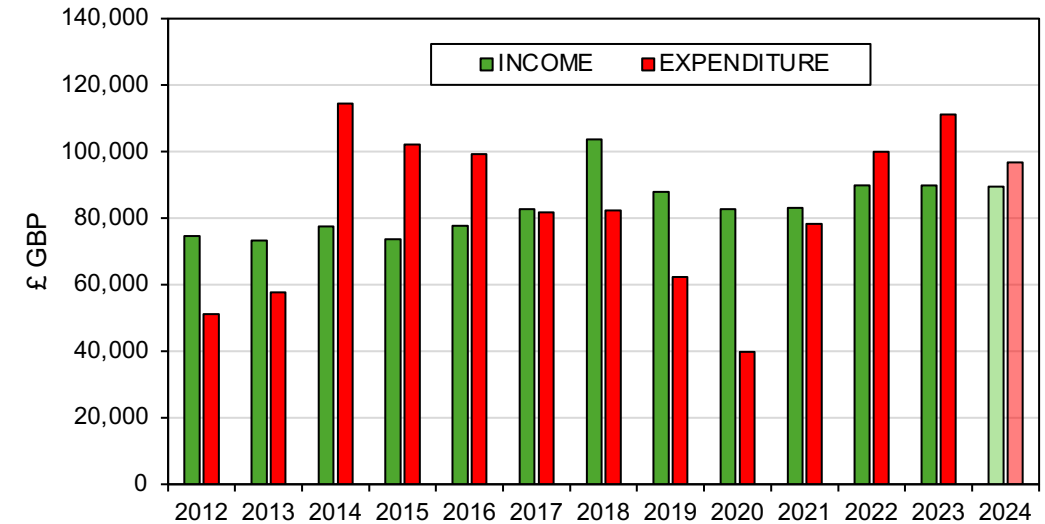


Fig. 1. Historic and projected income vs. expenditure

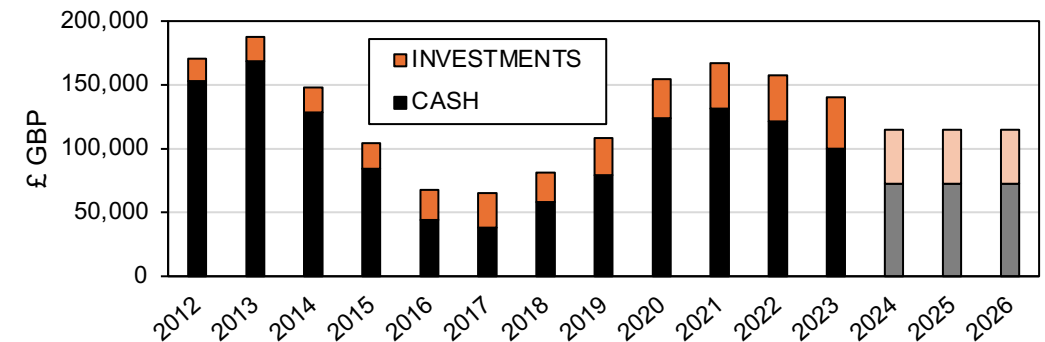
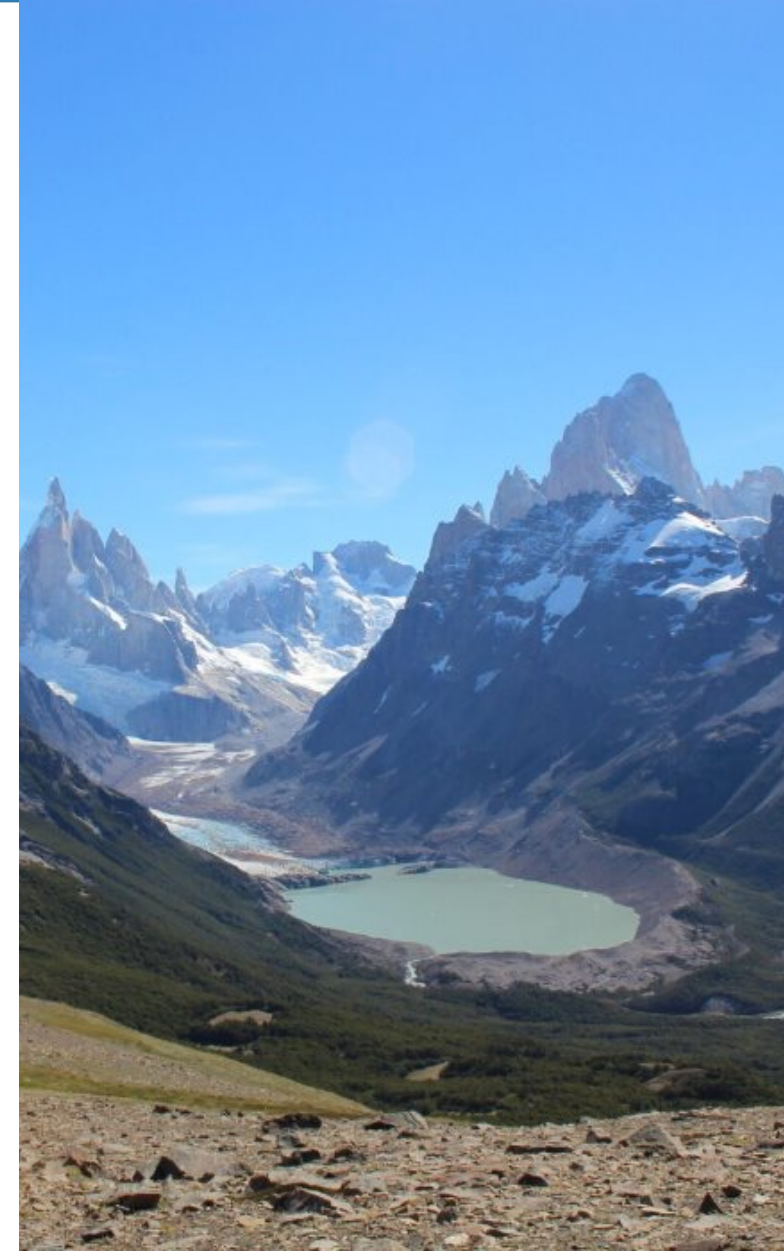


Fig. 2. Year-end historic and projected cash and investment balances.

- In 2024 we are operating a breakeven model of income and expenditure following strategic drawdown of our Covid-related surplus, and a return to pre-pandemic subcommittee budgets in most cases.

Looking forward:

- **There remains uncertainty surrounding future Wiley income** given shifts in the publishing landscape. The Society is actively engaged in efforts to further improve its financial resilience and maintain a positive relationship with Wiley.
- For the last ~4 years, membership dues have remained deliberately suppressed. We feel it is an appropriate time to uplift to dues as part of a wider drive to combat inflationary pressures that the Society is not immune to, and other uncertainties.
- We will implement discounted rates for members from non-high-income countries in an effort to diversify the membership.



Membership dues

Membership dues, effective 1st January 2025

| Membership type | Current | New High Income country | New Upper Middle income (minus 20%) | New Lower- middle income – (minus 40%) | New Low Income – (minus 60%) |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Full member 1 yr | £30 | £45 | £36 | £27 | £18 |
| PGR 4 yr / ECR 3 yr | £40 | £55 | £44 | £33 | £22 |
| Student / unwaged / retired 1 yr | £12 | £18 | £14 | £11 | £7 |

Country income classifications are according to [World Bank definitions](#).

Direct Debit payments falling in 2025 should adjust to the most appropriate new rate. New members, and existing members who renew manually, will be prompted to select the most appropriate rate at the point of payment.





Membership Update



Sub-Committee Updates

Committee Membership

- Vice Chair - Stuart Grieve
- Secretary - Lizzie Dingle
- Communications officer - Erin Harvey & Jayesh Mukherjee
- Web officer - Josh Wolstenholme & Adam Hartley
- PGR rep - Adam Hartley & Jayesh Mukherjee
- Professional member - Ellie Crabbe
- ex officio member - Stuart Lane (Editor of ESPL)

Social Media

- Updates to members being posted on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram
- LinkedIn coming soon!

Geomorphological Techniques

- Restored to website
- Surveying members on its use and future

Website Enhancements

- New content
- Election system
- AGM documents

Email Updates

- New regular digest email to members
- Fixing email issues

Research funding:

- 2024 grant budget reduction (£35,000) to pre-COVID levels after uplift 2021-23
- Two grant rounds were held: Sep 2023 (£30,000 available) and Feb 2024 (£15,000)
- In total, 26 grants awarded with total value of £41,993 (overall success rate: 29.5%; F13, M13). Full details on grant allocations in Research Sub-Committee Report.
- Next grants deadline 30 Sep

Society Awards:

- Winners of 2024 BSG Awards:
 - Linton Award: Professor Sanjeev Gupta (9 nominations; 1F 8M)
 - Warwick Award: Professor Georgina King (4 nominations; 3F 1M)
 - Chorley Award: winner Dr Anya Leeman (3 nominations; 3F 1M)
 - Mike Kirkby Award: Alexander Neely & Roman DiBiase (DOI:10.1002/esp.5553)
 - Fiona Kirkby Award: Dr Heinrich Bahlburg, Dr Constanza Carbonari, Dr Irene Delgado Fernandez, Dr Inci Guneralp, Dr Harrison Martin, Dr Nicole Pietrasiak, Dr Charlotte Priddy
- BSG 2025 Awards open until 31 Dec 2024: ALL members can nominate – so please do!

- BSG Windsor Workshop: training for 1st year PhD students (who started in 2024) in geomorphology held at Cumberland Lodge, Great Windsor Park, London
- 2023 workshop held 4-7 December 2023. 24 attendees from six European countries and 16 UK institutions. IAG provided grant support to three non-UK students from Europe.
- The workshop was run by Lucy Clarke (Nottingham Trent University) and John Wainright (Durham University), with additional support from the two newly appointed co-ordinators: Emma Shuttleworth (University of Manchester) and Jo Old (Environment Agency), as well as external speakers.
- Positive feedback from attendees:
 - Overall how would you rate this event: Excellent / Very Good 95%
 - 100% felt that staff running the event and external speakers added value / knowledge
- Dates for this year: **2-5 Dec 2024** – potential for up to 30 students.
- This year will be the **30th anniversary of this event** – open to ideas to celebrate this! Contact Lucy.Clarke@ntu.ac.uk
- Expression of Interest to open Oct 2024 – please advertise to new starters!

- **Marjorie Sweeting Prize**
 - 8 submissions. Awarded to Athena Eftychiou (UCL). 2024 deadline: 30 Sep
- **Geomorphological Outreach Grant**
 - One grant awarded to Dewi Roberts ('Fluvial geomorphology in action: enhancing geomorphological communication through video')
- **Website/Social media**
 - International Geomorphology Week and International Women's Day social media posts
 - Blog posts arising from Geomorphological Outreach Grant projects
- **Geographical Association**
 - Sponsorship of student photo competition
 - Attendance at annual conference as exhibitor (new run of '10 reasons' and teachers 'postcards')
- **Time for Geography**
 - Promotional video (4,658 plays, 70 % in classrooms) and short 'call-to-action' clips preceding other films, other planned content.
 - Total reach of BSG branded content: 110,752
- **Geomorphology Bios**
 - Aimed at school audiences – please contact hmg@aber.ac.uk
- **Committee Membership**
 - Thanks to Ethan Lee (PG rep) and Hanna Williams (Secretary), and welcome Aaditya Kapil (PG rep)

CPD Workshop

In May we ran a successful workshop in Glasgow looking at how we can restore geomorphological processes in urban environments, where there are often huge constraints to doing so. The workshop included a one day of classroom-based activities and a field trip to two restoration projects (Garrel Burn re-meandering project in Kilsyth and Tollcross Burn, a culvert daylight project).

Seminars

Seminars are ongoing and have become a regular fixture for many professional and academic geomorphologists. We think this has expanded the reach and raised awareness of the BSG.

New Committee Members

We are going through a period of change in the committee as roles are due for handover. As a relatively new committee we are still finding the best way to stagger the change in roles. Secretary is open for applications at this AGM, but we are looking to expand our numbers of general committee members. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please do get in touch.

Focus for 2025

- As a committee we want to focus this year on the direction that applied geomorphology is taking. The demand for professional geomorphology skills is increasing faster than this niche discipline can handle. This, combined with a lack of formalised training, is leading to poor quality or outdated river and coastal restoration. We will look at potential ways to increase uptake of the career, formalise a qualification, and engage with restoration designers.
- We are looking to work with other societies involved in geomorphology, for example Engineering Geology and the River Restoration Centre (RRC). This will expand our reach and provide opportunity for knowledge sharing.

Contact Matilda.Biddulph@environment-agency.gov.uk or @BSG_Geomorph



BSG British Society for Geomorphology

SEMINAR SERIES

19th July, 4 – 5:30pm UK time
Venue: Online

WITH GUEST SPEAKERS
Dr Arpita Mandal: Senior Lecturer
The University of The West Indies
Kingston, Jamaica
Dr Adam Heron: Lecturer
University of Bristol
Emi Husband: PhD Researcher
University of Northumbria

GEOGRAPHY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY OF THE CARIBBEAN

The 2023 FIWI Road Interns, in association with the British Society of Geomorphology, have organised an online seminar entitled Geomorphology: a Caribbean focus.

This collaborative webinar between the FIWI Road Interns and the British Society of Geomorphology presents a series of enlightening presentations. Diving into crucial topics, the speakers will offer their expertise on various subjects.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/24k7chxx>



Key Updates in 2022/23:

- Welcomed New PG Forum Members, and Sub-Committee Reps:
 - Communications – Jayesh Mukherjee, Adam Hartley
 - Professional Geomorphology – Harley McCourt
 - EDI Working Group – Shubham Tiwari
 - Outreach and Education – Aaditya Kapil
 - Research – Rosie Huck
- Research Funding Workshop at the Annual Conference
 - Panel Q&A Discussion on Acquiring Research Funding in PhD and Post-PhD
- Future Collaborations with International PG Geomorphology Groups
 - Scope to collaborate with German Young Geomorphologists to re-introduce workshop (Crowdsolving Geoscience Problems)/networking session at EGU25.
- Scoping interest for Postgraduate Forum Mentor Scheme
 - Questionnaire revealed overwhelming interest from members (both mentees and mentors) at all career levels and across industry/academia
 - Intention is to trial a more ad-hoc spot mentoring scheme through 2025 – this will require postgraduate volunteers (!)

2023/24 Postgrad Forum Committee:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Rosie Huck | Aaditya Kapil |
| Maike Nowatzki | Harley McCourt |
| Ying-Tong Lin | Marina Ruiz Sanchez-Oro |
| Adam Hartley | Anthony Hoskins |
| Jayesh Mukherjee | David Whitfield |
| Shubham Tiwari | |

This month, we welcome the **incoming PG Forum Chair, Jayesh Mukherjee**

We're also **looking for new members for the 2024/25 committee**, to help organise future initiatives

Get in touch:
bsgpostgrads@gmail.com



ESPL and Wiley

Thank you to outgoing committee members



- Dr Louise Callard (Chair)
- Heather Viles (President)
- Dr Matt Westoby (Honorary Treasurer)
- Dr Lucy Clarke (Vice Chair, Research Committee)
- Dr Eleanore Miles (Secretary, Committee of Professional Geomorphology)
- Dr Hannah Williams (Secretary, Education and Outreach Committee)

Welcome to new committee members.

We look forward to working with you.

**Incoming chair
Dr Annie Ockelford
(University of Liverpool)**



AOB