

BSG Committee for Professional Geomorphologists

Career workshop: Monday 10th Sept

How applied geomorphology professionals and academics communicate.

Conveners: Richard Jeffries (Environment Agency) & Katy Kemble (Jacobs)

Today, there are dozens of professional geomorphologists who apply their scientific knowledge across consultancy and industry.

Applied professional geomorphology is a relatively new discipline. To help practitioners network and develop the BSG has set up a new [Committee for Professional Geomorphologists](#).

This workshop will be run by committee members to explore communication within applied geomorphology, asking:

- *What challenges & opportunities are there when communicating from those who know to those who need to learn?*
- *How can academic & applied professional geomorphologists benefit by sharing knowledge & skills?*
- *Where is the common ground?*

A day in the life of... a professional geomorphologist

We'll start by exploring the idea and reality of being a professional geomorphologist.

The idea: being asked to give geomorphological advice, and having the knowledge and tools to respond in a way that is scientifically valid, yet quick and inexpensive.

The reality: professional geomorphology work is often driven by client needs... but do the clients understand what geomorphology is and when to ask for advice? Advice also typically has to be given quickly and with little quantitative analysis.

Knowledge exchange – how to make it work both ways

For professional geomorphologists – *what evidence will help you to communicate better & have more influence with clients? And what's the best way to learn from researchers?*

For academics – *how can your work be applied and used? What insights can you share about communication? Can you distil your findings for your time-poor applied colleagues?*

We will discuss how to exchange knowledge and how to identify opportunities for collaboration



Academic research – key influences:

Intellectual curiosity about geomorphological processes

Research findings that have a tangible use

Research impact and publishing



Common ground

*We all need to **understand** geomorphological processes*

We all use our knowledge to benefit people and environment

*We all **communicate** geomorphology to others*



Applied geomorphology – key influences:

Aim: to work sustainably with geomorphological processes

Technical advice on how best to work with natural processes

Advice to clients; reporting on statutory duty