



The
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Society

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**YORKSHIRE REGIONAL GROUP OF
THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Evening Meeting, Wednesday 24 September 2014
Meet from 6.30pm, talk at 7.00pm**

**FEET ON THE GROUND: ENGINEERING GEOLOGY, PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE
(2013 Glossop Lecture)**

**James S Griffiths
(Plymouth University)**

Lounge Bar & Grill, St John's House, Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 8JE*

Engineering geology has a long and rich heritage and the United Kingdom has been in the vanguard of the development of the subject as a distinct discipline with the first book on the subject being published in London in 1880. Since then engineering geology has been applied to projects around the globe and engineering geologists have become core members of planning, investigation, design and construction teams in the civil engineering and mining industries. However, in the past few decades we have seen numerical analyses increasingly being accepted as the answer to all geotechnical design questions, although as engineering geologists we are used to dealing with natural materials and processes and recognise that their inherent variability cannot always be reduced to a simple numerical value. Consequently, how do we ensure that any proposed construction works in civil engineering or mining take full account of this variability and the uncertainties that result? To enable engineering geologists to understand and describe these uncertainties are there fundamental skills that define an engineering geologist and, if so, how can these skills be taught or acquired? Also, in a world dominated by readily accessible data that can be downloaded and analysed for so many planned development sites how important are the field techniques of observation and mapping that an older generation of engineering geologists, including the speaker, considered their defining skill? Concentrating on the role of engineering geology in relation to civil engineering these are amongst the questions explored in this lecture leading to observations as to how the profession might develop in the future in order to meet the needs of society.

Jim is Professor of Engineering Geology and Geomorphology and Dean of Research and Innovation at Plymouth University. He has a wealth of experience both in industry and academia and has worked on projects worldwide. Jim's publication record to date comprises: 5 books; 14 book chapters; 44 journal papers; 18 conference papers; and over 50 professional reports. He was Chair of the Geological Society Engineering Group Committee 2006-8.

*Note Change of venue from that previously publicised. Details of the venue can be found at:

<http://www.loungebarandgrill.com/>

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Next meetings:

- 15th October 2014 at Lounge Bar & Grill, Leeds. Professor Peter Styles of Keele University will speak about Fracking and Shale Gas.
- The full events programme can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/yrj>

