



Geological Society Contaminated Land Specialist Group Annual Report 2021

Our committee

Full details of the current committee are published on our webpage:

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/contamland>

Summary of conference & events

Due to the Covid 19 outbreak public events have been curtailed, but despite this we have still managed to organise a number of events.

June 2021

- **Careers Video Filming**

The CLG, led by Anna Hitchmough and Matt Wright, has been working to produce short promotional videos to encourage students and early career professionals into the discipline of contaminated land. Representatives from academia, industry and regulators were asked to fill in a short questionnaire about their career and then on the 29th June 2021 were brought together at the Lapworth Museum in Birmingham to be interviewed on camera by a professional production company, Reel Access. The footage produced showcases the interesting and varied careers possible within contaminated land and frames the work we all do in a way that will hopefully appeal to younger audiences encouraging them into the industry. The videos are currently in the final stages of editing with the finished videos to be uploaded to the Geological Society careers pages and available for sharing to the industry at large.





September 2021

- **Handling Big Data: CLG/IES Joint event**

A joint event was held between the CLG, represented by Molly Brown, and IES on the subject of handling big data on the 16th September 2021. This event explored the topic of big data, providing expert presentations and interactive sessions on data gathering, processing and analysis.

- **Chartership with the Geological Society of London: Contaminated Land**

The Chartership Sub-Committee hosted a lunchtime webinar on 29th September 2021. The webinar was presented by Anna Hitchmough, Shaun Richardson and Amy Juden, and covered the benefits of gaining chartership, the online application process and some first-hand experience and advice from a recent applicant. Over 100 people attended the event, with plenty engaging in the question and answer session at the end. Feedback received was positive, and further chartership webinars are planned in the future.

October 2021

- **Virtual Career Days**

In October 2021 Chris Swainston presented at the Geological Society Virtual Careers Day detailing his work and site experiences in relation to skills that he has acquired in his professional life as a Contaminated Land Consultant that could be transferable to other areas. It was very interesting to hear presentations from practitioners in other fields and note many of the similarities in transferable geoscience skills across the range.

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Geological Society's Virtual Careers Days 2021
13-15 October 2021
#GSLCareers21

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Current Role:
Principal Environmental Consultant
Soils Limited – Winchester, Tadworth, Cornwall

Advise and communicate with Clients, Regulators and Soils Limited Staff in relation to:

- Site Investigation
- Contaminated Land
- Waste
- Hydrogeology
- Geology
- Site Monitoring
- Chemical Analysis and Testing
- Asbestos*

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Virtual Career Day, October 2021



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November 2021

- **Cardiff University Early Careers Networking Event**

On the 24th of November 2021, the Early Careers Sub-committee hosted a networking event at Cardiff University for undergraduate and postgraduate students in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. The event was well attended, with approximately 22 students and 6 early careers professionals from a range of geo-environment backgrounds and provided an opportunity for networking.

Feedback received was positive, with people expressing how useful it was for students to have an opportunity to talk to early career professionals in an informal setting. The event was also beneficial to the speakers, to have the opportunity to meet current students and develop skills associated with planning events.



Other items to note

In 2021 the committee agreed to facilitate the production of STEM content relevant to the Earth Sciences curriculum in partnership with Scotdec. We initially set aside funds to produce some short videos to encourage people to pursue a career in contaminated land, however Scotdec could no longer support the project. Moving forward we now propose to add STEM content to the GSL Geoscience Education & Outreach Network (GEON) platform (<https://geon.geolsoc.org.uk/feed>).

We've continued liaising with the regional groups to seek opportunity to co-badge meetings and assist each other in organising events covering land contamination topics.

The following planned events were postponed due to COVID 19 social distancing restrictions:



- Co-badged event with the Environment Network on the topic of plastics in the environment originally planned for 14th May 2020.
- EA H5 Site Condition Report guidance that is due to be published in January 2021, seminar from EA hosted Feb/March.
- Talk from Chris Swainston at the Geological Discussion Forum, originally planned for 14th April 2020.
- Joint event with the Hydrogeology Group on Sandstone Aquifers originally planned for 28th/29th April 2020.
- Joint event with Royal Society of Chemistry originally planned for late 2020.

Finances

The joint event with IES for which we received funds from on the 26th February 2021 was an outstanding payment from an event held in 2020, receiving £617.42. The Handling Big Data joint event with IES was held on the 16th September 2021, where we received £208.00 in profit. The expenditure of £65.04 were expenses paid to Matt Wright for food and drink at the careers video filming event. There will be an upcoming payment due in early 2022 to Reel Access for their work on the Careers Video Filming.

Date	Income	Expenditure	Balance	Comments
			£13,077.58	Opening balance carried over from 19/20 financial year
Feb-21	£617.42		£13,695.07	CLG share of profit from a joint event with IES held in 2020.
Jul-21		£65.04	£13,630.03	Matt Wright CLG Expenses to cover food and drink at the careers video filming event.
Oct-21	£208.00		£13,838.03	Profits from joint IES/CLG Event – Handling Big Data.

Balance remaining 6 October 2021 **£13,838.03**

Election to committee

During 2021, Jamie Melville, Nik Reynolds and John Cleland stepped down from the committee. We thank them for their efforts during their involvement with the group.

A call for three volunteers was circulated in December 2021. New committee members will be co-opted and formally elected at our AGM in February 2022.

Plans for 2022

The Geological Society's theme for 2022 is 'Year of Sustainability'. As part of this we have so far planned:

Conference on Sustainability and Climate Change:

We have proposed a date of September/October 2022 to hold a conference with initial ideas of a macro and micro approach to sustainability and climate change topics. The macro approach is envisaged to involve wider issues such as impacts of climate change, city planning, effects on brownfield redevelopment, whilst the micro approach focuses on topics such as electrification of site machinery and material management.



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Webinars:

We will also continue working with other groups and organisations including the regional groups, regional contaminated land forums and other professional bodies to develop events and other initiatives to promote the profession.

We will be conservative with our surplus funds until it is clearer when we can hold in-person conference again, surplus funds in line with our constitution.

The chartership working group will discuss ways to both help the society attract candidates for chartership with the society and facilitate candidate's applications.

Emily Reynolds
Contaminated Land Specialist Group Secretary
January 2022