Careers Day

4 November 2026



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Programme

Careers Day

Main programme

Talks will be taking place in our Janet Watson Lecture Theatre, located on the ground floor of the Society.

09:30 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome Address
10:15-11:00	**Session One (Lecture Theatre)** **Chair:** Benedict Robbins Jen Fisk, *RWE*
11:00 - 12:00	Networking & refreshments
12:00 - 12:45	**Session Two (Lecture Theatre)** **Chair:** Ellen Mullarkey, *AtkinsRealis* Harriet Pascoe, *SLR Consulting* David Whitworth, *Keele University*
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:45	**Session Three - Pathways to Employment (Lecture Theatre)** **Chair:** Chris Griffith, *Geo-Environmental Services* Courtney Garbutt, *Arup* Imke Trenkner, *Aqua Terra*
14:45 - 15:45	Networking & refreshments
15:45 - 16:30	**Panel Discussion** **Chair:** Natasha Stephen Harrier Pascoe, *SLR Consulting* Rob Schofield *Speaker tbc*
16:30 - 18:00	Drinks Reception

Meet our volunteers

Our President



Jessica Smith
Design Engineering Manager,, SSE

Jessica is an engineering geologist with a BSc (Hons) in Earth Science from the University of Glasgow (2004) and a MSc in Engineering Geology from Imperial College London (2009). Her career to date has included designing and supervising rockfall protection schemes in Gibraltar, assessing landslide risk in Europe, tunnelling through the Great Glen Fault, and designing rock cuttings for the A9 Dualling in the Highlands of Scotland. She now works for the energy company SSE and is based in Glasgow. Jessica, a Chartered Geologist, first joined the Geological Society as a student member and is delighted to be the current President!

Careers Day Working Group



Benedict Robbins, *Chair*
Director, Next-Gen Renewable Technologies Ltd

Benedict Robbins is a Chartered Geologist (CGeol) and Chartered Scientist (CSci) with over 15 years of experience across geophysics, ground modelling, and offshore wind development. He combines technical expertise with innovative thinking to deliver value on complex energy projects. During a contract with BP, Benedict led quantitative ground modelling activities for the Oceanbeat 4GW development, serving as technical focal point for geohazard identification and velocity modelling. As Director of Next-Gen Renewable Technologies Ltd, he has supported clients including BP, ERM, and Global Maritime. Benedict also leads social media engagement for SUT OSIG, promoting knowledge sharing, professional development, and industry collaboration.



Ellen Mullarkey, *Chair*
AtkinsRealis

Ellen Mullarkey is a Chartered Hydrogeologist at AtkinsRéalis, specialising in water resources and groundwater management. She is also a Chartered Water and Environmental Manager (CIWEM). Ellen holds a B.A. in Geology from Trinity College Dublin and an MSc in Hydrogeology from the University of Birmingham. Prior to joining AtkinsRéalis, she worked as a Hydrogeologist with TOBIN Consulting Engineers in Ireland and completed a Women in Mining internship as a Discovery Geologist with Anglo American. Beyond her technical role, Ellen is Vice-Chair of the Geological Society's Early Career Network and represented the Society at Voice of the Future in Parliament in 2026.

Meet our volunteers



Lauren Schumacher
Mott MacDonald

Laura Schumacher is a Graduate Engineering Geologist at Mott MacDonald and a First-Class Geology graduate from the University of Southampton. Her early career has taken her from supervising ground investigations and logging boreholes and trial pits on site, to developing geological models and supporting geotechnical design for major infrastructure projects including East West Rail and Lower Thames Crossing. Laura is also actively involved with the Geological Society as the Early Career Professional Lead for the Southeast Regional Group, where she helps organise talks, careers events and opportunities for young geoscientists. She particularly enjoys the problem-solving side of geology and seeing how geological understanding translates into real engineering projects. Fun fact: she once uncovered a Septarian nodule during a trial pit that looked suspiciously like an unexploded ordnance. Thankfully it wasn't!



Chris Griffith, *Chair*
Geo-Environmental Services Limited

My name is Chris, I'm a Senior Consulting Engineer for Geo-Environmental Services Limited, I've been here for 4 years now. I'm in charge of the day to day running and mentoring of the East Anglia Team as well as managing my own projects and the stakeholders. I've been in the industry for eleven years. I graduated with a MESci Geology from Cardiff and spent six years with Provectus Remediation as a graduate engineer/engineer, I assisted with large scale remediation projects and ran site investigations. I moved on to landfill engineering at Ayesa for a year before I joined my current company.

Meet our speakers

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Jen Fisk
Affliation

Jen Fisk is an Asset Risk & Lifetime Optimisation Engineer at RWE. She studied BSc Geology + Physical Geography (with Hons) at the University of Birmingham (2020-2023), before joining RWE as part of their International Renewables Graduate Programme. Following the programme, she transitioned to role her current role in asset risk management, specialising in cost risk for onshore renewables assets. This involves assessing and forecasting future risks for operational assets and the financial impact this could have on our business. Jen's interest in a career in energy formed during her degree programme, during modules focused on geological projects that drive the energy transition



Harriet Pascoe
Senior Geotechnical Engineer, SLR Consulting

Harriet Pascoe is a Senior Geotechnical Engineer at SLR Consulting. She started her career as a geotechnical engineer on the Midlands tunnels for HS2, before moving into consultancy with a small UK-based company working on civils projects in the southeast of England. In 2023 she turned to mining, working on international open pit and underground projects and travelling to greenfield and operational mines in Madagascar, Egypt and Liberia. She has recently returned from a conference in Peru where she presented a paper based around her work on slope stability for an open pit mine in eastern Egypt.



David Whitworth
Keele University

David Whitworth is a geoscientist, researcher and analyst in the energy industry. He is simultaneously completing a part-time PhD in Sedimentology and Carbon Storage, and has a second career as a professional singer; he is currently a Lay Clerk at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, combining this with his scientific work. David is a passionate advocate for improving access to geosciences for young people in disadvantaged parts of the country, and regularly visits schools as a STEM Ambassador. He volunteers on committees for several charities, including as Vice-Chair of EDIA at the Geological Society, and as Chair of the Young Professionals for the Cathedral Music Trust.

Meet our speakers

Careers Day



Courtney Garbutt
Arup

With a background in Earth Sciences, Courtney Garbutt is a Ground Engineer at Arup, working across a range of geo-environmental and general ground engineering projects. Her experience covers both onshore and offshore work, including ground investigation reporting, risk assessment, geological interpretation, seabed characterisation, geohazards and GIS. She has a growing interest in digital geoscience and using new tools to understand and communicate complex ground conditions. Alongside her technical work, Courtney is Secretary of the Geological Society's Early Career Network (ECN), supporting engagement and development within the wider geoscience community.
Fun Fact: I'm a fluent Welsh speaker!



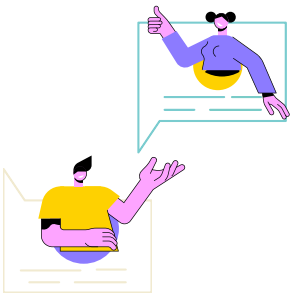
Imke Trenkner
Graduate Geo-Environmental Consultant, Aqua Terra Consulting

Hi, I'm Imke! After completing my MSc in Environmental Hazards, I started working as a Graduate Geo-Environmental Consultant at Aqua Terra Consultants in January. I now get to do what I love every day, with a mix of fieldwork and desk-based work on a wide range of interesting projects, including wind and solar farms. I realised I wanted a job that allowed me to work both indoors and outdoors during a five-month internship in Breda, the Netherlands, as part of my BSc in Environmental Science. Luckily, I'm not sick and tired of the outdoors yet, as I love going for runs and hikes in my free time!

Workshops

Careers Day

Interview practice



Preparing for interviews is a key step in securing placements, internships and graduate roles. This interactive workshop will help you understand what employers are looking for and how to communicate your skills, experiences and enthusiasm effectively. Through practical exercises, example questions and guidance from geoscience professionals, you'll learn techniques to build confidence, structure your answers and make a positive impression during interviews. Whether you're new to interviews or looking to refine your approach, this session will provide valuable tips and insights to support your career journey.

Interview practice sessions will be taking place, in the **Arthur Holmes Room** (ground floor) at the following times:
10:15 - 11:00, 12:00 - 12:45, 14:00 - 14:45, 15:45 - 16:30

CV drop-in sessions



Whether you're applying for placements, graduate roles, internships for your next career opportunity, a strong CV is essential. Join our CV Drop-In Session for advice and feedback from geoscience professionals and careers experts.

Bring along your CV to receive practical tips on how to showcase your skills, experience and achievements effectively, helping you stand out to employers in the geoscience sector. This informal session is an excellent opportunity to ask questions, gain insights into recruitment expectations and strengthen your applications.

CV drop-in sessions will be taking place, in the **Lyell Room** (first floor) at the following times:
10:15 - 11:00, 12:00 - 12:45, 14:00 - 14:45, 15:45 - 16:30

Workshop facilitators



Glenn Hughes

Enginering Geologist, AECOM

Glenn Hughes is a London based Chartered Geologist and member of the UK Register of Ground Engineering Professionals at Specialist grade. He has over 20 years of experience and has worked internationally in the UK, Eastern Europe, Middle East, South America, Australasia, and the Pacific. His main interest is working in underground environments such as tunnels where you get the see geology come to life.



Neville Brookes

A Chartered Geologial Advisor for global Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and New Venture projects, with over 40 years' experience working for small and mid-sized independent oil and gas companies and consultancies (including discovery of the Jackdaw gas field). Additionally, during the 2020/2021 pandemic years, qualified as an Engineering Geologist and worked on ground and contaminated land investigations. More recently, helping drive the Energy Transition as the global Business Development Manager for a major service company in the Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) business. Most recently, in collaboration with a Robotics/AI/Architecture start-up company providing geological advice for geoengineered materials designed for marine habitat restoration.

Sachin Gosai

Sachin Gosai (CEng, CGeol, MSc DIC) is a Chartered Engineer, Chartered Geologist and Senior Consultant (Geotechnical and Tailings Engineering) with over 14 years of global experience in geotechnical engineering.



This has included tailings/filtered tailings facility management and design, gained from experience working on large uranium, gold and iron ore mining projects in Europe, Africa, Asia, Russia and The Americas. Sachin has a strong background in investigation and infrastructure design, where he gained valuable experience in large scale multi-disciplinary engineering projects across Europe and the Americas. He has since worked on and supervised a broad range of projects of varying sizes involving foundation and slope design investigation, retaining wall design, tailings storage facility engineering, heap leach design, filtered tailings/dry stack design, waste rock dump design and mine infrastructure design. His recent interests beyond traditional design have been in digital geotechnics including data management, new design techniques and spatial information collection and representation.

Workshops

Careers Day

Alex Carbray



My career spans 50 years on Engineering Geology and Geotechnics. I've worked in the UK and overseas in some very pleasant countries.
In the UK I've been involved with foundations for a single house to sports stadiums and site investigations for a range of projects. The Chalk, London Clay and Glacial Till often feature as the geology I've worked with and historic coal workings.
Overseas it was high open pit slopes on the Zambian Copperbelt and hydro-electric projects in South Africa and Sri-Lanka. Further east the three China's, Peoples Republic, Republic and Hong Kong on slopes, hydro projects and high speed rail.
Advice I would give: keep a tidy desk, always be inquisitive and keep asking questions.
A quotation that applies to me: "a life that is planned has to be endured not lived" so I tend not to plan

Helen Smith

