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EARLY CAREER NETWORK

For the next generation of geoscientists

Early Career Geologist Award

Wednesday 27th May 2026

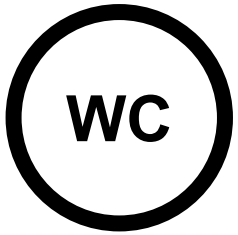
ECN
Early Career Network
The Geological Society

The Geological Society

Housekeeping





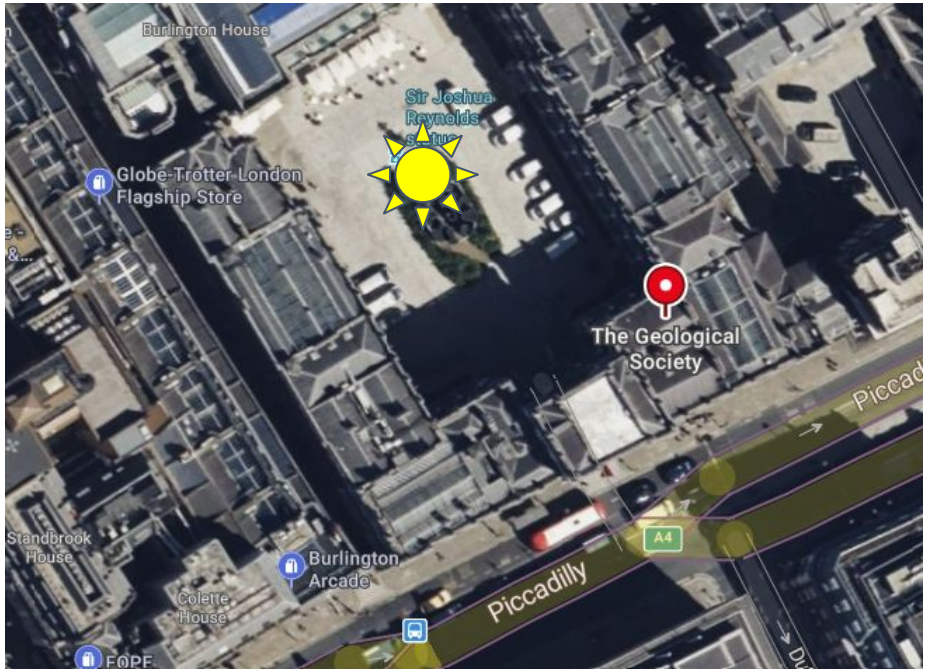




Tea Break







Introduction
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Judges
Competition

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Early Career Geologist Award

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The Early Career Geologist Award is a **science communication award** which was established by the Geological Society in 2012. The ECN have hosted the award since 2018.

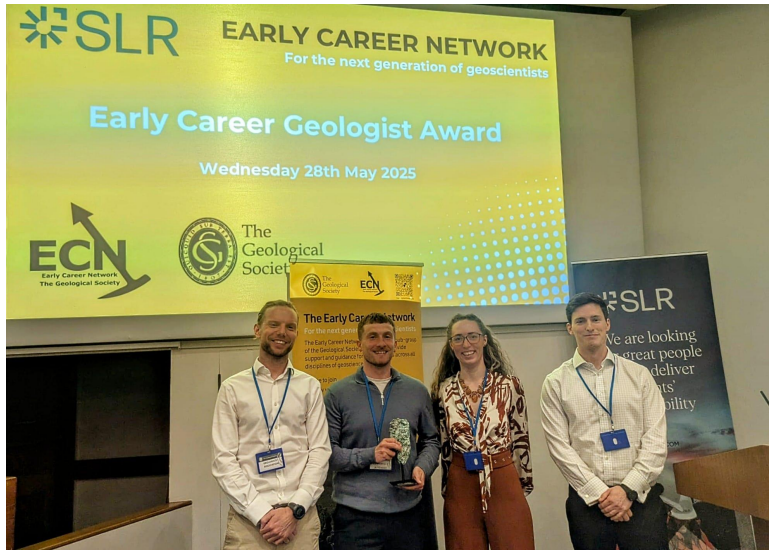
Finalists are nominated by their local **regional group** who generally host their own local competition to determine their champion.

Each candidate presents a 10 minute presentation on a geoscience topic of their choosing and will have 5 minutes allocated for questions from the judges.

Candidates are marked on the following:

- ***Presentation***:
  - *Delivery/clarity of message*
  - *Legibility of content*
  - *Creativity*
- ***Technical content***
- ***Accessibility*** *of presentation (suitable for an early career, multi-sector geoscience audience)*

The winner of the award takes home the unique EC Geo Award trophy and a £100 voucher.
All finalists automatically win a 1-year complimentary fellowship with the GSL.



Judges



Maria Holloway-Strong
Lead Judge
Principal Engineering Geologist
AtkinsRéalis



Jason Lumb

Associate Director
Arup



Neil Morris

Senior Environmental Manager
Ministry of Defence

Competition

17.30 **Welcome to the award**

17.40 - 18.25 **Session 1**
East Anglia RG Finalist - **Maximillian Van Wyk de Vries**
Western RG Finalist - **Ajantha Kirupakaran**
Northern RG Finalist - **Christina Castledine**

Refreshment Break (15 mins)

18.40 - 19.25 **Session 2**
West Midlands RG Finalist - **Zoe Tanswell**
North West RG Finalist - **Tighe Stapley**
Southern Wales RG Finalist - **Nia Jones**

Refreshment break (10 mins)

AGM & Award ceremony

20.00 **End & onto the pub!**

EARLY CAREER NETWORK

For the next generation of geoscientists

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27th May 2026

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Early Career Network

The ECN was established in 2018 and operates as a sub-group of the Geological Society of London.

The ECN focuses on providing early career professionals with a range of opportunities for networking, mentoring, continual professional development and personal upskilling.

Key Aims:

- Free membership
- Accessibility
- Collaboration
- Promote geoscience industries and EDI

The Network is managed by a volunteer Committee of GSL fellows with experience ranging from chartered/experienced professionals, entry-level geoscientists, and students studying geoscience.

Join the ECN Mailing List

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Meet the Committee

Our volunteer committee is comprised of a unique group of early career geoscience professionals who are well-distributed across key geoscience industry sectors



Rachael Sims
Quarrying Geologist



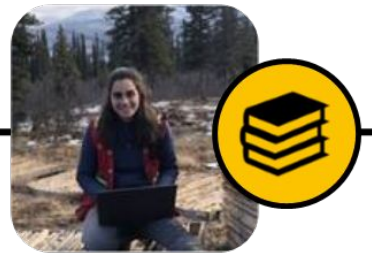
Ellen Mullarkey
Hydrogeologist



Will Downes
Risk Analyst



Jocelyn Barker
Sustainability Consultant



Ayesha Landon-Browne
PhD Candidate



River Stewart
Undergraduate Student



Dr Awei Mabi CGeol
Academic Director



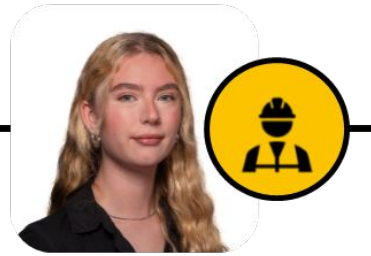
Ellie Smith
Engineering Geologist



Lucy Spindler CGeol
Geotechnical Engineer



Carlisle Vyphius Jr.
Geological Engineer



Courtney Garbutt
Geoenvironmental Engineer



Harriett Pascoe
Mining Geotechnical Engineer



Zoe Guy
Engineering Geologist

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AGM elections & officers

Members of the Committee shall serve for a period of three years and are eligible to stand for re-election for a second three-year term. Officers will be elected for one year at a time.

<u>New committee members since last AGM:</u>
Carlisle Vyphius
Courtney Garbutt
Zoe Guy
Harriet Pascoe

<u>2026/27 Officer Elections</u>
Chair - Rachael Sims
Vice Chair - Ellen Mullarkey
Treasurer - Carlisle Vyphuis
Secretary - Courtney Garbutt
External Group Liaison Officers (Specialist and Regional Groups) - Ellie Smith and Zoe Guy

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Outgoing committee members



Dan Hope, CGeol
2024-2026: Chair
2023-2024: Vice Chair
2021-2023: Secretary
2020-2021: SGL



Alex Christopher
2024-2026: Ordinary Member
2021-2024: Treasurer
2020-2021: Secretary



Jean-Jacques (Jack) Ferguson
2025-2026: Ordinary Member
2024-2025: Secretary

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Chair's Report

Presented by incoming ECN Chair, Rachael Sims

May 2025

2025 Early Career Geologist Award

New committee members

September 2025

Scotland Social

GSL Careers day

May 2025

Regional and Wildcard heats

Parliament event & Next Gen conference

November 2025

Public Lecture











Mapping the future

The Early Career Network as an integral part of the journey for anyone considering study or career paths in geoscience

AS THE WORLD FACES a growing number of challenges, geoscientists are more crucial than ever. Careers that help society understand and manage Earth's systems are both high-impact and increasingly sought-after, yet navigating these pathways can be challenging for early career professionals.

The Early Career Network (ECN) was established in 2019 as a place for early career geoscientists to develop multi-sector professional networks and support development in the widest sense. Since then, it has grown to over 1,200 members across the UK and internationally.

SERVING SCIENCE, PROFESSION AND SOCIETY

The ECN has the Society's key values at its heart and is a voice for early career geoscientists within the Society's Professional & Chartership Committee and Science Committee. It aims to facilitate collaboration and promote diversity and inclusion.

To achieve this, we have built strong foundations with the Chartership Office, Specialist Groups and Regional Groups of the Geological Society. We are working collaboratively to channel the 'Next Generation of Geoscientists' campaign, helping young people to learn more about studying and working in the geosciences, and are supporters of the 'This is Geoscience' campaign.

A CONGLOMERATE OF EXPERIENCE

The ECN is led by a volunteer committee of early career professionals, ranging from undergraduate and postgraduate students to graduate geoscientists and experienced Chartered members. The committee represents a broad spectrum of industry sectors, from engineering, exploration and hydrogeology to PhD students, geophysicists and sustainability experts (and more!), with over 50% female representation. Discover the committee at: geolsoc.org.uk/careers-and-training/early-career-network/meet-the-committee.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

The ECN hosts the Early Career Geologist Award, which is held annually in May at Burlington House and is the highlight of our events calendar. Participation from all early career Fellows is warmly encouraged, offering the opportunity to present their work to a diverse, multi-sector audience, and learn effective science communication. Please connect with your local Regional Group to be nominated to participate in regional competition or keep an eye out for our Wildcard entry. To find out more about the award, visit: geolsoc.org.uk/careers-and-training/early-career-network/early-career-geologist-award.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our 2026 events calendar will be released shortly, but we continually review and adapt our schedule to reflect emerging interests and collaborations. Previous events included lectures, group walks, field trips, online discussion and Chartership guidance sessions. Consider early participation to make the most of these professional development opportunities. We welcome collaboration so if you are planning a lecture, field trip, workshop, or other activity, we would be delighted to support and promote it within the ECN community. Do get in touch to discuss how we can work together to share knowledge and create engaging experiences for early career geoscientists.

DAN HOPE
Chair of ECN

RACHAEL SIMS
Vice Chair of ECN

JOCELYN BARKER
Publicity Officer

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Whether you're a recent graduate, a mid-career switcher, or simply curious about what the ECN has to offer, we invite you to sign up to our mailing list via the QR code for updates, to attend an event, or volunteer your time.

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Treasurer's Report

Presented by outgoing treasurer, Will Downes

Month	Planned Activity	Estimated Costs	Actual Spend	Remaining Budget
May 2025	Early Careers Award 2025	1280	1241.01	543.86
September 2025	Summer Social - Scotland	150	152.21	391.65
November 2025	Careers Day Travel	150	107.59	284.06
November 2025	In-person Committee Meeting	50	43.5	240.56
January 2026	GSL Allowance 2026	-	+1250	1490.56
April 2026	Sponsorship - AtkinsRéalis	-	+1000	2490.56
May 2026	ECN Grain Size Cards	110	105	2385.56
May 2026	EC Award - staff, AV, security	750	754.8	1630.76
May 2026	EC Award - other costs	700	-	930.76
May 2026	EC Award Networking Social	200	-	730.76

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2026-2027 plans

Presented by incoming secretary, Courtney Garbutt

- **Collaboration with other early career groups and GSL regional groups to cohost events, bringing multiple sectors together**
- **Internal advocacy of early career geologists within GSL –** Professional and Chartership committee, Membership office, Careers day committee, GSL Regional Groups, GSL Specialist Groups, GSL Science Committee
- **Attendance at university fayres and industry conferences**
- **September Public Lecture**

Get in touch if you would like to collaborate or have an idea you want us to bring to life!

Groups internal to GSL which we actively collaborate with:

Engineering Group – Early Career Section

Hydrogeological Group

Contaminated Land Group

Energy Group

Regional Groups

Groups external to GSL which we collaborate with:

AAPG – Europe Young Professionals

Young Mining Professionals London

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Early Career Geologist Award

Award Ceremony

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NETWORKING SOCIAL

Co-hosted by

The Geological Society

Contaminated Land Group Early Careers

Engineering Group Early Careers

Hydrogeology Group Early Careers

Energy Group Early Careers

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Early Career Geologist Award

Post event social & networking

@ The Market Tavern, 7 Shepherd St