



The
Geological
Society

-serving science & profession

Communicating Contested Geoscience

new strategies for public engagement

A 1-day conference on how to communicate key geoscience challenges to the public

20 June 2014

The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG

Geological issues are increasingly intruding on the everyday lives of people across the UK. Whether it be onshore exploration and extraction of oil and gas, subsurface injection of waters for geothermal power or deep storage of carbon and radioactive waste, many communities across the country are being confronted with controversial geo-engineering interventions under their backyard. Alongside the complex scientific and technical challenges this brings is the problem that, to most people, the geological subsurface is an unknown realm. That combination presents particular difficulties for professional geoscientists communicating what they do and what they know to the lay public. Developing public participation strategies that effectively engage with citizens, communities, and stakeholder groups, require geoscientists to better appreciate what the public knows and what they have concerns about.

This conference will be a forum to bring geoscientists from universities, industry and government together with specialists in communication and public engagement to explore the challenges of communicating contested geological issues to the wider public.

The one-day meeting will focus on three current and pressing societal concerns in the UK: (1) radioactive waste disposal; (2) shale gas and fracking; and (3) carbon capture and storage.

These themes will be explored through a mix of keynote talks and expert panel discussions, alongside active Q & A from an audience of geoscience and communication practitioners.

Registration Fees Non-Fellow £60 Retired £25 Student £10

Fellow £40

Convenors:

Iain Stewart (Plymouth) - istewart@plymouth.ac.uk; **Zoe Shipton** (Strathclyde) - zoe.shipton@strath.ac.uk; **Clare Bond** (Aberdeen) - clare.bond@abdn.ac.uk; **Nick Smith** (Manchester) - nick.t.smith@nnl.co.uk

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