

## **‘Engaging with Geodiversity – why it matters’ conference**

### **Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh, 1 December 2010**

This one day Conference was organised jointly by Scottish Natural Heritage, the British Geological Survey ([BGS](#)), the Royal Scottish Geographical Society ([RSGS](#)) and the British Society of Soil Science ([BSSS](#)).

- [Conference programme](#)
- [Abstracts](#)
- [Key messages from the conference](#)

Papers presented at the Conference and extended abstracts from the poster session will be published in a Special Issue of the *Scottish Geographical Journal* in late 2011.

### **About the conference**

The conference addressed how geodiversity provides the foundation upon which plants, animals and human beings live and interact. The aim was to raise wider awareness of the scope, values, relevance and applications of [geodiversity within Scotland, and its contribution to ecosystem services](#).

Over 100 participants attended this event to explore the concept of geodiversity, its relationship to biodiversity and its integration in ecosystem services, planning, tourism and education.

The Conference was opened by the Scottish Environment Minister, Roseanna Cunningham MSP. During her speech, she emphasised the wider value and relevance of Scotland’s geodiversity as one of the key determinants of our quality of life and the nature of the environment that we share.

Ms Cunningham also said:

“Geodiversity is now also increasingly recognised as having an important role in underpinning and delivering ecosystem services and functions for the benefit of Scotland’s people and environment. The conservation management of the non-living parts of the natural world is crucial for sustaining living species and habitats.

“In this wider sense, geodiversity potentially has a fundamental bearing on the health and wellbeing of Scotland’s people and therefore a strong contribution to make in delivering, the Scottish Government’s Strategic Objectives and key themes for a Greener Scotland.”

Further information on Scotland’s geodiversity:

[What is geodiversity?](#)

[Scotland’s rocks, landforms and soils](#)

[Safeguarding geodiversity](#)