

The Royal Geographical Society Event



On the 14th May 22 members of LandAspects, Mouchel's land services division, attended an event hosted by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). Those who attended are either currently working towards their chartership or aspiring to becoming Chartered Geographers. The aim of the event was to forge closer links with the RGS-IBG, encourage professional development and to explore the possibility of forming a network across Mouchel of geographical skills.



First they were given a tour of the headquarters in South Kensington, London, which included the Foyle Reading Room, and its many books and collections. The sheer numbers of books, maps, and artefacts was very impressive and proved to be a great source for research. The Society has the largest private map collection in the world with over a million items.

Dr Catherine Souch gave us an introduction to the Society and Chartered Geographer status. Later that evening we all attended the debate "Geo-engineering our climate" from the 21st Century Challenges lecture series. Geo-engineering is the idea of how we can manipulate the Earth's natural climate system to help reduce the effects of global warming. It may not be a solution to climate change but could it delay the impacts?

The Society supports education, teaching, research and scientific expeditions, and also promotes public understanding and enjoyment of geography. It is a leading world centre for geographical learning and is the largest, most active of the scholarly geographical societies.



In 2002 The Privy Council granted the Society the power to award Chartered Geographer status to those Fellows of the Society who had fulfilled set criteria. These criteria include a degree in geography or related subject and at least 6 years geographical experience, or 15 years geographical experience for those without a degree. Those who have

been awarded the status are permitted to use the letters 'CGeog' and it is a sign of commitment to continuing professional development. Ashley Parry Jones the Divisional Director of LandAspects and Environmental Planning & Sustainability was amongst the first people to achieve the status of Chartered Geographer; he is also one of the initial assessors in the RGS's application process.

In an effort to work towards chartership some members of LandAspects have become 'Geography Ambassadors' for the RGS. This involves attending a training course to learn more about how to enthuse young people about the opportunities in geography. Ambassadors then attend events, schools and colleges to give presentations and answer questions about further education and working in a geographical field. Outside of the Ordnance Survey, Mouchel has the greatest number of individuals pursuing chartership with the RGS.