

Area reference to British Geomorphological Research Group

**Royal
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Reference:

- [Area, Vol. 6, No. 1 \(1974\), pp. 74](#)
- [Area, Vol. 8, No. 2, 23rd International Geographical Congress \(Moscow\) \(1976\), pp. 157](#)
- [Area, Vol. 9, No. 2 \(1977\), pp. 128-129](#)
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- [Area, Vol. 14, No. 1 \(1982\), pp. 78-80](#)
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Extracts:

Area, Vol. 6, No. 1 (1974), pp. 74

British Geomorphological Research Group

The Group organized two meetings during the year. A field meeting at Folkestone from 10-12 May was organized by R. Crofts, and it included visits to the Devil's Kneading Trough and to the cliff failures in the Folkestone area led by Dr M. P. Kerney and Dr J. N. Hutchinson. The Annual General Meeting and autumn discussion meeting were held in the Department of Geography, Portsmouth Polytechnic from 1-3 November. This was organized by Dr D. N. Mottershead and the scientific programme, which was on the theme 'Soils, Geomorphology and Engineering', was coordinated by Dr R. P. C. Morgan and Dr R. J. Chandler. The meeting, which attracted a record attendance of more than 110 workers in a range of cognate fields, included a field excursion led by Dr Neil Duncan (Department of Engineering Geology and Geotechnics, Portsmouth Polytechnic). This excursion illustrated some engineering geomorphic problems associated with the 'Great Morass', motorway building and drainage over chalk, and problematical exposures in flint gravels and coombe rock near Chichester.

During the year, the Group published (as IBG Special Publication No. 6), *Fluvial Processes in Instrumented Watersheds*, edited by K. J. Gregory and D. E. Walling, and *The Unquiet Landscape*, edited by D. Brunnsden and J. C. Doornkamp was published by David and Charles in November 1974.

Two small research groups were active during the year: the first on Basin Sediment systems (organized by Prof. M. J. Kirkby) involved two meetings and the second on Morphometry (organized by Dr I. S. Evans). The first meeting of the latter group was on cirque morphometry (see *Area* 6 (1974), 2, 150-3).

The Group achieved Charity Status during the year and there are plans to invest some funds in research and publication activities. Prof. R. J. Chorley was elected the first Honorary Life Member of the Group in recognition of his outstanding contribution to British Geomorphology and to the BGRG. Prof. R. S. Waters was elected to the new post of Vice-Chairman (Chairman-elect), and Dr K. J. Gregory to the post of Honorary Secretary for the period 1974-77. The three new committee members elected were Dr I. S. Evans, Dr A. Goudie, and Mr P. Sargent.

E. Derbyshire and K. J. Gregory

Area, Vol. 8, No. 2, 23rd International Geographical Congress (Moscow) (1976), pp. 157

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Three major meetings are usually held each year. The first during the annual meeting of the IBG included contributions to a symposium on the 'Impact of the environment' and half-day sessions were devoted to the subjects of cirque morphometry organized by Dr I. S. Evans, and to denudation chronology of South East England organized by Dr A. Goudie, Dr J. A. Catt and Dr Hodgson. The second meeting was a field meeting devoted to the theme 'Lateglacial and postglacial change in Lake District landscape' and centred at Brathay Hall, Ambleside. Glasgow provided the third venue in October for the annual general meeting and for a full day symposium organized by Dr R. J. Price with the theme 'Glacial and periglacial processes and landforms'. This very valuable meeting included the presentation of 13 papers and it was succeeded on Sunday 26 October by a field excursion to the area north of Glasgow led by Mr J. Rose. Total membership is now over 500 and meetings are well attended. Small research groups hold additional meetings and during the year there were several meetings of groups devoted to basin sediment systems (convenor Prof. M. J. Kirkby) and to morphometry (convenor Dr I. S. Evans).

Publications continue to flow from members of the group. Technical Bulletins are publications devoted to the details of specific techniques and three more were published during the year to bring the total to 14. Progress in Geomorphology edited by R. S. Waters and E. H. Brown appeared as IBG Special Publication No. 7 and Nearshore sediment dynamics and sedimentation edited by J. R. Hails and A. P. Carr was published by Wiley. A newsheet Geophemera is compiled by Dr S. Trudgill and distributed to members three times a year. Beginning in 1976 a new international journal Earth Surface Processes is sponsored by the Group and published by Wiley. The Committee has been very active during the year and at the Annual General Meeting Prof. M. J. Kirkby was elected to the post of Vice-Chairman and Dr R. A. Collingford, Dr R. J. Price and Dr S. Trudgill were elected to the Committee.

K. J. Gregory

Publications of the BGRG

Technical Bulletins (available from Geo Abstracts Ltd, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ)

11. A. Young with D. Brunnsden and J. B. Thornes, Slope profile survey (1974)
12. M. Church, Electrochemical and fluometric tracer techniques for streamflow measurements (1974)
13. L. F. Curtis and S. Trudgill, The measurement of soil moisture (1975)
14. V. Gardiner, Drainage basin morphometry (1975)

Area, Vol. 9, No. 2 (1977), pp. 128-129

British Geomorphological Research Group

A full day symposium on the subject of river channel changes was held at Lanchester Polytechnic on 6 January 1976 during the annual conference of the IBG. The well attended meeting was convened by K. J. Gregory, it involved the presentation of 13 papers, and stimulated lively discussion, subsequently characterized as up the creek and round the bend. A very successful meeting was held in London from 5-9 April 1976 and was organized by Dr D. Brunnsden and Dr C. Embleton (King's College) and Mr D. K. C. Jones and Dr J. B. Thornes (LSE). This international meeting entitled 'Geomorphology: present problems and future prospects' saw the first two days devoted to review papers of major fields of geomorphology delivered by Profs F. Ahnert, J. Gjessing, I. Douglas, J. Walker, L. B. Leopold, J. Demek, R. J. Chorley and J. R. L. Allen. This was followed by a day on which lead papers in eight fields were the starting point for workshop discussions and a final day saw discussion of the future of geomorphology ably initiated by Prof. G. H. Dury. Some 200 members attended this meeting which was a great success and established many new contacts. The AGM was held in Sheffield from 29-31 October 1976 and this gave the opportunity for paper sessions on hydrology and fluvial geomorphology, and on slopes and slope erosion. An excellent field excursion to Mam Tor was led by Rod Brown.

The Group is very grateful to Dr Steve Trudgill for the energy that he devoted to the organization of the Sheffield meeting. A number of small research groups continued to meet during the year and a floods patrol group has been convened by Dr K. J. Bevan. The Group has continued its active interest in publications. Climate and landforms edited by Dr E. Derbyshire was published by Wiley in 1976 and the first four issues of Earth Surface

Processes have now appeared: the Group is grateful to Prof. M. J. Kirkby, the managing editor, and to Wiley for the way in which the journal has been launched. Dr T. Atkinson is editor of the continuing series of Technical Bulletins, and Geophemera, the newsheet compiled by Dr S. Trudgill, has continued to inform members three times each year. Six small research grants were awarded during the year to assist specific investigations. A series of articles on the ' Face of Britain ' were written by members of the Group and appeared in the Geographical Magazine between December 1975 and August 1976. The Group's tie first appeared on the fashion scene during the summer, it is now widely distributed but it can still be obtained from the Honorary Secretary while stocks last!

K. J. Gregory

Area, Vol. 10, No. 1 (1978), pp. 70

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A very successful programme of meetings was completed during the year. During the IBG Annual Conference at Newcastle two half-day sessions were organized. A group of papers on ' Geomorphology, education and relevance' was convened by Dr D. E. Sugden, and Dr J. C. Doornkamp organized a series of papers on 'Geomorphology and resources', and it was gratifying to see a large and diverse audience for both sessions. On 27 April 1977 a joint meeting with the Geological Society was held at Burlington House on the theme of ' Geomorphology and sedimentation '. The thirteen speakers in geomorphological and geological alternation were followed by a useful discussion and it is hoped that this session, organized by Prof. R. U. Cooke and by the late Prof. W. W. Bishop, will be the first of a number of joint meetings. Dr M. M. Sweeting and others led a field meeting based on Whernside Manor Caving Club from 13-15 May 1977 and this provided an opportunity to discuss limestone phenomena and late-Quaternary landscape evolution. The Annual General Meeting was held in Aberystwyth, 28-30 October 1977, where Dr J. Lewin convened a variety of papers appropriate for the theme ' Environment, process and pollution '. An excursion on 30 October was led by Dr J. Lewin and demonstrated the floodplain sequences and channel changes of the Rheidol and Ystwyth valleys. At the AGM Prof. R. F. Peel became Chairman, Prof. R. U. Cooke was elected Vice-Chairman, Dr A. S. Goudie became Honorary Secretary and Dr R. P. C. Morgan and Dr W. B. Whalley were elected to the Committee. An evening discussion meeting on 29 October was held to ventilate views on the recently published NERC working party report on the geomorphology of water-produced landforms. Following this informal meeting a letter has been sent relaying some of the views expressed to NERC. Four working groups have continued during the year and the Floods Patrol, the most recently established, is awaiting flood events with Dr K. Bevan as convener. Some members of the Group participated in a joint meeting with the Sedimentology Research Group and the Microscopical Societies at the Annual Meeting of Geological Societies in Swansea in September 1977.

The Group has recently benefited by a bequest from the estate of Mr A. E. Frost and an annual lecture entitled the A. E. Frost lecture has been established and this will be delivered each year, probably at the October meeting, by a person nominated by the Committee.

A.S. Goudie and K. J. Gregory

Area, Vol. 11, No. 1 (1979), pp. 23

British Geomorphological Research Group

During the year the BGRG, now with about 500 members, had a series of useful meetings. At Aberystwyth (October 1977), J. Lewin and his colleagues organized a session on ' Environment, process and pollution ' which was accompanied by a field excursion to Devil's Bridge. There was also a lengthy and lively discussion of the NERC document the geomorphology of water-produced landforms At the IBG meeting at Hull, another exposed venue, R. Cullingford, J. Lewin and D. Davidson convened a meeting on the theme ' Time-scales in geomorphology '. The third meeting of the year was a magnificent field meeting at Gibraltar Point, organized by R. E. Dugdale and his Nottingham colleagues (May 1978).

The BGRG also nurtures its own study groups on basin sediment systems, flood studies, and geomorphometry. Other major activities have been in the sphere of publishing where, under the energetic management of D. Brunsdon and his sub-committee, various ventures have come to fruition. These include the publication of the papers presented at the 1976 Conference (Geomorphology: present problems and future prospects, OUP, edited by C. Embleton and others), further Technical Bulletins (edited by T. Atkinson)

and the Landform landmarks series in The Geographical Magazine. Plans are well in hand for a series of articles on the teaching of geomorphology (edited by D. Weyman) in Teaching Geography, for a Manual of geomorphic techniques and for a series of BGRG Research Monographs (edited by S. T. Trudgill). Geophemera, the BGRG newsletter (edited by S. Nortcliff) and Earth Surface Processes (edited by M. J. Kirkby and S. T. Trudgill) have continued to appear.

At the end of the year, having completed their terms of office, two of the Executive Officers retired after loyal and effective service: R. F. Peel (Chairman) and I. S. Evans (Treasurer).

A.Goudie

Area, Vol. 12, No. 1 (1980), pp. 89

British Geomorphological Research Group

The BGRG has had an active year. A meeting was held at Lanchester Polytechnic on Depositional Landforms and members enjoyed the first Frost lecture by T. Waltham. A field excursion to Cannock Chase was included. At the Manchester Conference there was a symposium on 'Problems of long term landform development' and a young research workers' open session. The strength of the younger membership of the Group was shown by an innovatory meeting at the LSE in May, organized by B. Gomez, L. Martin and S. Wise, on 'Current post-graduate research in geomorphology'. The annual field meeting was held at Plymouth Polytechnic where small catchment instrumentation and tors were studied. The final meeting of the year was at Wuirzburg when fifteen members enjoyed a well-organized symposium with German colleagues. The papers are to be published in the Zeitschrift fur Geomorphologie as a special issue. The British organizer was M. Thomas.

The publications of the group continue to prosper under the direction of D. Brunnsden. Technical Bulletins, Earth Surface Processes, and miscellaneous books have appeared. The Group is involved in two educational ventures: a series of articles in Teaching Geography (edited by D. Weyman) and a new series on Classic Landforms (in association with the Geographical Association). Geophemera has appeared in an improved format thanks to the efforts of H. Scoging.

Andrew Goudie

Area, Vol. 13, No. 1 (1981), pp. 87-88

British Geomorphological Research Group

A year of unprecedented activity and variety began with the AGM in September 1979, a meeting on Geomorphological Techniques organised by Duncan McGregor and embellished by equipment demonstrations and a Frost Lecture on 'destructive mud' by D. Brunnsden. A contingent of members then left for a highly successful symposium with German colleagues, held at Wuirzburg; the proceedings will form a supplement of the Zeitschrift fur Geomorphologie. Thanks are due to M. F. Thomas, the BGRG organiser. One of the German hosts, D. Biische, was a guest of the Group at the IBG Conference in Lancaster in January, 1980, as was J. Savat of Louvain-a contact from an earlier exchange with European geomorphologists. The Lancaster meeting was well attended, possibly because a very wide range of themes was covered by speakers convened by Keith Richards. Although several younger members of the Group presented papers at Lancaster, a special, additional, post graduate symposium was organised at the LSE in April by Paul Burren and Neil Caldwell. The May field meeting in the Cairngorms was attended by some Dutch colleagues, and was organised by Rob Ferguson and Alan Werritty, who are to be congratulated for arranging superb weather.

The Group has also been active in other ways. Alastair Gemmell has produced and circulated the register of Current Research, and Helen Scoging has edited an improved Geophemera which is rapidly and intentionally taking on an international flavour. Affiliation has been negotiated with the Geological Society of London following the results of a postal ballot of the BGRG membership (now approaching 700), Eric Brown has presided over our Research and Publication Fund, which has dispersed a record sum (over £800), we have discussed threats posed to Chesil Beach, and we have produced many publications. There are now 26 BGRG Technical Bulletins, and Geo Abstracts have published the first two of a new series of BGRG Research Monographs. As the BGRG enters its 21st anniversary year, the prospect of an equally active year

to be further fostered by the Frost Lecture, this year being given by D. Busche (Wurzberg), and it is hoped that the 1983 David Linton Award will be presented to J. R. L. Allen of the Department of Geology, Reading University.

Postgraduate members of the BGRG have contributed significantly to the Group's activities, and S. Cooper this year organised a highly successful one-day postgraduate symposium at Huddersfield Polytechnic (12 May), including a guest lecture by M. J. Kirkby. The importance of the research contribution of postgraduates for the future health of geomorphology is well recognised, and the BGRG has attempted to assist its postgraduate members by sponsoring compilation of a register of research projects, a list of members willing to provide informal tuition in some of the more sophisticated, high-technology field and laboratory methods, and a workshop on research design and methodology funded by the NERC and organised by D. Sugden, J. B. Thornes, J. Birnie and T. Culling. Forty-one research students attended the first workshop in November 1982, and found the formal discussion and informal contact with their peers very valuable, early in their first year of research. A second workshop is planned for the same Windsor venue in November 1983, and the NERC funding is gratefully acknowledged.

In October 1983 the BGRG loses the services of its Chairman (E. Derbyshire), Honorary Secretary (K. S. Richards) and two committee members (A. Werritty and I. Reid). Their successors will find that existing initiatives by the committee have established a full programme of events for 1984, and that a successful and mutually beneficial conclusion has been reached in the negotiations with the Institute over its relationship with the Group. The level of activity of the BGRG places a heavy burden on its elected officers, but it is with some regret that I write this final report in my period as Secretary; it is a pleasure to be associated with such a loyal and friendly membership.

Keith Richards

Area, Vol. 16, No. 4 (Dec., 1984), pp. 343-344

Geomorphological Study Group (BGRG)

The Geomorphological Study Group of the Institute has enjoyed another very active year with a varied programme of meetings and a number of new publications. Whilst no new meetings were held with foreign geomorphologists, preparations for the First International Conference in Geomorphology to be held at Manchester University in 1985 have gathered momentum and international contacts are actively being developed in anticipation of that meeting. The Annual Conference and AGM was convened by E Derbyshire at Keele University in October. There was an open programme of papers covering topics in environmental change, fluvial, glacial, periglacial and coastal processes. Concurrent workshops on image analysis and careers in geomorphology provided more specialist presentations. The Annual Frost Lecture entitled 'Dunes rush in' was given by D Busche (Wurzberg) and the David Linton Award was presented to J R L Allen (Reading). Two sessions on 'Theoretical Geomorphology' and 'Selected papers in Geomorphology' ably organised by I S Evans, N J Cox and H Goldie at the Institute's Annual Conference in Durham provided a timely exposure to themes only rarely represented at GSG meetings. The first of these sessions focused on the development of mathematical models to characterise the form of irregular surfaces, the development of slope and gully systems and the Hurst effect in process studies. The second session encompassed surging glaciers and landforms in the humid tropics and concluded with a structured series of papers on sea-level changes.

Other meetings during the year have included a field meeting at the College of St Paul and St Mary, Cheltenham organised by C Roberts and M C Addis and supported by an exemplary field guide. The Group also joined with the Biogeography Study Group, the Quantitative Methods Study Group and the Remote Sensing Society for a joint meeting in Reading entitled 'Quantitative Remote Sensing in the Earth Sciences' organised by R Harris (Durham). Another specialist meeting on 'Environmental change in Low Latitudes' has been convened by E Derbyshire (Leicester) as part of the British Association meeting in Norwich in September. This provides a valuable opportunity for introducing geomorphology to the general public and familiarising them with the work of the GSG. At the Annual Conference in Hull with the theme of 'Geomorphology and Soils' it is hoped to present the David Linton Award to R J Chorley (Cambridge). The interests of postgraduates have continued to be met by the second NERC-funded Short Course on Research Design attended by 32 students at Windsor in November 1983 and the 6th Postgraduate Symposium organised by research students at Southampton University in May with M Newson as guest lecturer.

The relationship with the IBG has been modified so that the BGRG now incorporates the Geomorphological Study Group of the Institute. This administrative adjustment should result in no change in

the services provided to all members and no lessening of ties with either of our parent bodies. Finally, I should like to thank the retiring chairman, D E Sugden (Aberdeen), who has vigorously promoted the Group's interests at both national and international levels. In October 1984 the Group also loses the services of A J Gerrard (Birmingham) as Honorary Treasurer, D Lawler (Birmingham) as Editor of *Geophemera*, and T P Burt (Oxford) and R J Chandler (Imperial) as Committee members. To all these individuals and many other members of the Group who have assisted me in my first year as Honorary Secretary I extend my thanks.

Alan Werritty University of St Andrews

Area, Vol. 17, No. 4 (Dec., 1985), pp. 340-341

Geomorphological Study Group (BGRG)

The Geomorphological Study Group of the Institute has enjoyed a very varied programme of national meetings whilst at the same time preparing for September's major international meeting. The Annual Conference and AGM was jointly convened by K S Richards (Cambridge), R Arnett and S Ellis (both Hull) at Hull University in September on the theme of 'Geomorphology and soils'. The paper sessions, which attracted a notable participation by geomorphologists from Western Europe, covered a range of topics including the study of present-day soil processes and the use of palaeosols for reconstructing environmental change. This theme was further developed in the Frost Lecture given by A C Imeson (Amsterdam) entitled 'Land degradation and its evaluation, or Zen and the art of geomorphology'. The David Linton Award was presented to R J Chorley (Cambridge).

In November the BGRG held a joint meeting with the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy at Burlington House. This well attended and highly successful meeting on 'Placer deposits' was jointly convened by I Reid (Birkbeck) and D G Sutherland (Placer Analysis). It provided an excellent opportunity for familiarising mining engineers with the potential value of geomorphology in placer exploration. A special thematic issue of the *Journal of the Geological Society* will be devoted to this meeting in 1986.

The mid-winter meeting of the IBG at Leeds provided the opportunity for diversifying our programme and joining with other Study Groups. The first session with the Working Party on the History and Philosophy of Geography was devoted to a 'Celebration of James Hutton's Theory of the Earth' first read as a paper in 1785 in Edinburgh. R Porter (Wellcome Institute) and G L Herries Davies (Trinity College Dublin) provided masterly appraisals of Hutton's significance within the wider context of the present-day history of science. T Burt (Oxford) and R J Shakesby (Swansea) convened another joint session with the Higher Education Study Group on the topic of 'Teaching geomorphology'. The programme was eclectic but two major themes were present: the use of microcomputers in teaching, and new teaching procedures designed to improve student performance. The final part of the programme devoted to geomorphology was a full-day symposium on 'Process rates and mechanisms' convened by P Naden and M J Kirkby (both Leeds). This provided a valuable forum in which to review the recent progress made within this especially vigorous branch of geomorphology. The time tabling encouraged extensive discussion which contributed greatly to the success of the meeting.

Postgraduate members of the Group have enjoyed two specialist meetings. The first was the Third NERC-funded Short Course on Research Design attended by 27 students in Windsor during November 1984. This was followed by the 7th Postgraduate Symposium organised by D Gilvear (Loughborough) at Loughborough University in May with J Lewin (Aberystwyth) as guest lecturer.

Much of the Group's effort during the past year has been directed towards the First International Conference in Geomorphology to be held in Manchester in September 1985. Over 400 delegates are expected to attend, and it is hoped to present the David Linton Award to L Starkel (Krakow). Both I Douglas (Manchester) as Chairman of the Organising Committee and D Brunnsden (KCL) as retiring BGRG Chairman have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this meeting. To them, and to the retiring Committee members, J Rose (Birkbeck) and A J Parsons (Keele), I extend my thanks for easing the burden of the Secretary over the past year.

A Werritty University of St Andrews

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Geomorphological Study Group (BGRG)

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The Group's activities over the year 1985/6 were dominated by the First International Conference in Geomorphology held at the University of Manchester in September 1985. The conference took as its theme 'Geomorphology and development'. The overall conference planning was undertaken by a Conference Organising Committee with the detailed planning at the local level handled by I Douglas (Manchester). The six-day programme included more than 27 separate thematic sessions, 7 workshops and scientific meetings of Commissions of the International Geographical Union and INQUA. In addition to these thematic sessions there were poster presentations, evening plenary sessions, one-day field excursions during the conference and longer field excursions to other parts of the British Isles both before and after the main meeting. During the conference the David Linton Award was presented to L Starkel (Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow) and the annual Frost Lecture entitled 'The use of geomorphology' was given by R U Cooke (UCL). The aim of the meeting was to foster links between geomorphologists working in countries at varying stages of economic development so that a truly international dimension to the science of geomorphology might begin to emerge. In this it seems to have been highly successful with an attendance of over 700 delegates drawn from 52 countries, the creation of a working party to initiate the formation of an International Geomorphological Organisation and the commitment to a Second International Conference in West Germany in 1989.

Later in the year at the Annual Conference of the IBG at Reading, the Group joined with the Remote Sensing Society in organising a two-day symposium on 'Remote sensing applications in geomorphology and hydrology'. The programme, organised by J R G Townshend and A C Millington (Reading) was noteworthy in that, in addition to state of the art papers on remote sensing, there were also 'in-house' workshops at which local staff demonstrated their image processing systems. A half-day excursion to the National Remote Sensing Centre at Farnborough completed an instructive and diverse programme.

Postgraduate members of the Group have had two meetings specially catering for their needs. The first, an NERC-supported Short Course on Research Design co-ordinated by S T Trudgill (Sheffield) and J Petch (Salford), was held at Windsor and provided new postgraduates with the opportunity to explore different research methods with each other and with more experienced geomorphologists. The results of previous Short Courses of this kind were well exemplified in the 8th Annual Postgraduate Symposium at Leicester convened by P Ashworth (Stirling). The final meeting of the year was the Spring Field Meeting held at Buxton and jointly organised by J Gunn (Manchester Poly) and D Butcher (Huddersfield Poly). The meeting comprised one day in the limestone terrain of the 'White Peak' followed by a day on the blanket peat of the 'Dark Peak'.

In retrospect the last year has been an exciting one for the BGRG. Largely as a result of the Manchester Conference geomorphology seems poised to become a fully developed international science. The precise form this international dimension will take and the future role of the BGRG within it remain to be decided. However, it seems certain that in hindsight the Manchester Conference will be seen to be the meeting at which the BGRG came of age.

Alan Werritty University of St Andrews

Area, Vol. 19, No. 4 (Dec., 1987), pp. 360

Geomorphological Study Group (BGRG)

The theme underlying many of the group's activities in 1986/7 has been collaboration. For the first time a joint meeting was held with the Quaternary Research Association. This highly successful conference on 'British Quaternary river landforms and sediments', organised by M G Macklin and J Rose, was held in September at Newcastle upon Tyne. It was attended by over 90 delegates, about half of whom were members of both groups. The Frost Lecture, entitled 'The Fool on the Hill and the Man in the Street' was delivered during the meeting by M Newson. Other highlights of the meeting were the field excursion led by the conference organisers plus P Carling and P Allen, and the presentation of the BGRG's David Linton and Gordon Warwick Awards to L B Leopold and W Dietrich, both of the University of California, Berkeley.

At the other end of the year the Group organised a three-day meeting in collaboration with the British Hydrological Society and the British Sedimentological Research Group, on the 'Hydrology, sedimentology and geomorphological implications of floods'. Convened by K J Beven and P Carling at the University of

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Lancaster in May, this workshop brought together researchers from a wide range of academic backgrounds and institutions. The session format was one of two longer invited papers followed by short presentations providing insights into the variety of approaches adopted, and the nature of current research foci. A field trip was led by A Harvey to the Howgill Fells during this meeting.

At the Annual Conference of the IBG in Portsmouth the Group organised two sessions. A one and a half day session on Geomorphology and public policies was convened by J M Hooke. This dealt with the impacts of public policies on the landscape and the implications of research results for environmental policy formulation. A one day session on Experimental methods in Geo morphology was convened by P Farres. This focused on experimental methodologies, allowed a wide range of topics to be presented, and stimulated much discussion.

Two meetings have been specifically directed towards postgraduate members of the Group. The annual NERC-sponsored course on research design was held as usual at Windsor, under the direction of W B Whalley, P Farres, A Armstrong, H Faulkner and R I Ferguson. Valuable contributions were also made by advanced postgraduate students, who passed on their hard gained experience. A forum for the presentation of postgraduate research was afforded by the 9th BGRG Postgraduate Symposium, organised in May at the University of Leeds by D Lyall. Striking points to emerge from this were the diverse range of environments being studied, and the sophisticated nature of the technologies employed.

The officers of the Group have, as usual, been engaged in a great deal of activity behind the scenes. Much discussion has centred on the role of Geomorphology in the Earth Sciences, as a response to the UGC report. The Group has become accredited to the Foundation for Science and Technology, and the usual flow of publications has continued. Already we are looking ahead and outwards, to further collaborative ventures. At the next IBG Annual Conference we are collaborating with the Planning Study Group, and in 1989 hope to be participating in the next International Conference on Geomorphology.

V Gardiner University of Leicester

Area, Vol. 20, No. 4 (Dec., 1988), pp. 381-382

British Geomorphological Research Group

The Group's year started with its annual general meeting and conference in Oxford. This meeting had the broad themes of Karst, the tropics, and rates of geomorphological processes themes dear to the heart of Dr Marjorie Sweeting, a former Chair of the Group whose retirement was marked by this meeting and a special issue of the Group's journal, *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*. The Group's awards were also presented during this meeting-the David Linton award to Professor J de Ploey of Leuven, the Gordon Warwick Award to Dr Colin Ballantyne of St Andrew's, and the new Wiley Award to Professor R U Cooke and Dr C B Sperling of University College London.

The Group continued to support the training of future geomorphologists by its now annual NERC-supported training course in November-the end products of which emerge about two and a half years later at the Group's postgraduate symposium. The tenth of these was held in May 1988 at St Andrew's University, and for the first time extended over two days, with a very full programme of papers offered.

In January the Group participated in the IBG annual conference at Loughborough, in a session on technology, planning and environmental management, convened jointly with the Planning and Environment Study Group.

One innovation this year was the departure of the spring field meeting to foreign shores, when a small group led by Dr A Harvey and Professor J B Thornes visited research areas in southern Spain, in conjunction with Spanish colleagues. Another is an agreement with Wileys to publish a new series of thematic volumes based on conference sessions. The first will appear shortly, containing papers from the Portsmouth IBG session on geomorphology and public policy.

Behind this public activity the executive committee continues to be kept very busy with managing the affairs of the Group. The officers are faced by what seem to be insatiable requirements for information and reports from its parent organisations, and for its views on research and teaching priorities from research councils and other associations. The increased number of awards has meant more administrative and logistic effort, and the demands of international geomorphology are once again beginning to tax the committee at the 1989 Second International Conference on Geomorphology looms over the horizon. Some minor changes in committee responsibilities have been introduced in an effort to involve every committee member in the increasing workload.

Vince Gardiner University of Leicester

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British Geomorphological Research Group

The past year has been a full one for BGRG with more meetings than usual and a range of issues on which action has been taken. One of the highlights of the year was the joint BGRG/IBG/RGS meeting on 'Geomorphology and Global Warming' held at the RGS in May. This was meant as a high profile event and achieved national press coverage as well as a large audience. It was ably organised by this year's Chairman, Professor John Lewin, and by Dr Tom Spencer. A joint one day meeting was held in conjunction with the Photogrammetric Society at Burlington House on the subject of 'Applications of Geomorphology in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing', coordinated by Dr Tony Brown. Our usual trio of major meetings has taken place, beginning with the AGM at Cardiff in September organised by Dr Charles Harris. This produced a plethora of papers on the theme of 'Cold Climate Geomorphology' though the attendance was rather disappointing. The Frost Lecture was given by Professor Hugh French of Ottawa. During the IBG Conference in Glasgow BGRG held a one and half-day symposium on 'Geomorphology of Upland Britain' with papers on a range of spatial and time scales. This was well attended and the excellent programme was organised by Dr Alan Werritty. A weekend field meeting based at Charmouth took the theme of 'Landslides of the Dorset Coast' and examined some of the research carried out in that area over the past 20 years. A combination of impeccable organisation by Dr Robert Allison and his team, interesting field sites and research, and good weather made it very successful. A healthy mix of our academic and commercial members participated and Robert Allison produced an excellent field guide.

The Postgraduate Research Training Course was held at Cumberland Lodge in November. The Committee decided it was time to evaluate this course, simply because it had been running for several years; Dr John Boardman attended on the Executive Committee's behalf and reported very favourably. The postgraduates held their 12th Symposium at Exeter University in May, organised by Dave Higgitt. The papers were of a high standard and covered a wide range of subjects.

Increasingly BGRG is asked to respond, or feels there is a need to make representations, on various national issues. This year these have included the National Curriculum in Geography, UFC guide prices on Geography, the position of geomorphology within NERC and the formation of the Earth Science Education Forum. A major initiative has recently been taken with the aim of improving the availability of geomorphological information at major landform sites. This has been coupled with the opportunity to take action in relation to a strategy on Earth Science Site conservation produced by the Nature Conservancy Council.

In running our own affairs, a major development in BGRG has been the successful implementation of a computerised database of members, completed by Ian Foster. The Publications Sub-Committee has met and reviewed its range of publications; ESP&L continues to thrive and two more volumes have been published in the BGRG Symposia Series. The BGRG has an increasing number of annual awards with a dissertation prize being awarded for the first time this year, in this case jointly to Nicholas Gough (Oxford University) and Simon Lowden (KCL). The David Linton Award went to Professor Mike Kirkby and the Wiley Award for best paper in ESP&L to Dr Ken Pye and Dr R Johnson. An external development of some significance to BGRG was the establishment of the International Association of Geomorphologists during the 2nd International Geomorphology Conference in Frankfurt.

It has been an active year for BGRG which, while furthering its research and educational aims, has tried to raise awareness of the subject and to make its voice heard in appropriate places.

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Geomorphological Research Group

BGRG held its usual three meetings this year. Papers at the Annual General Meeting were on the theme of 'Fluvial dynamics of lowland river channel and floodplain systems' and ranged from aspects of morphology to ecology and river management. The conference was organised by Geoff Petts and attracted an international audience. The Frost Lecture was given by Gary Parker (Minnesota). BGRG sponsored a full 2-day symposium organised by David Thomas and Robert Allison on 'Landscape sensitivity' during the IBG Conference at Sheffield. This brought together a wide range of geomorphologists, with various interpretations of the theme, and was generally well attended. The Spring 'Field' meeting was, in fact, a mixed paper and field conference focusing on the 'Geomorphology and sedimentology of lakes and reservoirs'. Organised by Robert Duck and John McManus, this was based at St Andrews and field visits were made to lakes and reservoirs in the Lomond and Ochil Hills. Edited symposia volumes are to be produced from all three meetings.

New postgraduates attended the BGRG/NERC Research Training Workshop at Windsor in November; this continues to be a highly beneficial and exemplary activity of BGRG. The postgraduates moved across the water to Belfast for their 13th postgraduate symposium. As a special incentive, the organisers, Cheryl Moses and Janet Wright, included two field trips in their programme. These proved highly successful, as did the whole programme, which was well attended.

Our publications continue to thrive, with Earth Surface Processes and Landforms flourishing and the Symposia series lengthening. Agreement has been made for BGRG, together with the International Association of Geomorphologists (established in 1989) to sponsor a new publication of International Geomorphology with theme issues from international contributors. Geophemera continues to convey news to our members and is now under the editorship of Mark Macklin (Newcastle).

Various developments have taken place in our initiative on Geomorphological Site Information and Conservation. After making considerable comment on a draft, we were pleased to see that the Earth Science Conservation Strategy published by the Nature Conservancy Council in December gave a high profile to Geomorphology. The BGRG Working Party and members have met with NCC and also with the National Trust and some National Parks and various developments are in progress. We also received a COPUS grant (Committee for Public Understanding of Science) from the Royal Society to help prepare display materials for sites. A questionnaire was issued to members and a database has been established of those willing to provide expertise on field areas. A network of representatives in each country has been established to promote the NCC strategy.

Our membership numbers remain healthy. We have once more made representations on issues relating to education and research, and have distributed small research grants to a range of projects. Again we have recognised meritorious geomorphologists, the recipient of the David Linton Award this year being George Dury and of the Gordon Warwick Award, Martin Sharp.

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IBG Study Groups' Annual Reports 1992

British Geomorphological Research Group

The past year has been one of reflection by the BGRG on its own organisation as well as continuation of a vibrant programme of meetings and publications. External relations have been fostered through a series of joint conferences with other bodies and representations have been made to appropriate agencies over various issues.

The usual three meetings have been held during the year. The AGM conference was held at Leeds University last September in conjunction with COMTAG and was on the theme of 'Theory in geomorphology'. Papers covering a wide range of scales, subject matter and approaches were presented to an international audience. The Frost Lecture was given by Professor Asher Schick (Hebrew University, Israel). The meeting was followed by a field trip to Scotland. At the IBG conference at Swansea in January a two-day symposium on 'The effects of environmental change on geomorphic processes and biota in arid and semi-arid regions'

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was organised jointly with the Biogeography Study Group and was well attended. The Spring Field Meeting was based at Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire and examined aspects of geomorphological processes, management and conservation along the coast. Participants were able to enjoy wading in the mud of the Wash and an aerial view of the coast from a small plane. In addition to these meetings, a two-day symposium on 'The dynamics and environmental context of aeolian sedimentary systems' was held jointly with the British Sedimentological Research Group at the Geological Society in London and attracted a large audience. A conference was held in Crewe in May on the theme of 'Conserving our landscape: evolving landforms and Ice Age Heritage'. This was organised jointly by the Geological Society; BGRG; Quaternary Research Association; Royal Geographical Society; English Nature; Countryside Council for Wales and Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland. It comprised a day of very short presentations with pre-circulated papers, a format which worked surprisingly well, followed by two days of field trips in Cheshire and the Pennines.

Activities for postgraduates during the year included the annual Research Design Short Course and the 14th Postgraduate Symposium held at Reading University. The latter included papers and a field trip but attendance was rather disappointing. Our thanks go to organisers of meetings: Mike Kirkby (Leeds); Ken Pye (Reading); Bob Dugdale and Colin Thorne (Nottingham); Mark Macklin (Newcastle) and Siegbert Otto (Reading). Publications are being produced from several of these meetings.

The recipients of the BGRG awards in 1991 were Cuchlaine King (David Linton Award); Ken Pye (Gordon Warwick Award); Jane Hart, Richard Hindmarsh and Geoff Boulton (Wiley Award) and Stuart Lane (Dissertation Award).

Membership of the BGRG was held steady though with the perennial problem of lapses in payment by some members. The finances of BGRG remain healthy and publication activity has been high. Further volumes in the BGRG Symposia series have appeared and the first of the Technical and Software Bulletins published supplement to ESP and L has been sent out on trial. The new BGRG publicity boards have been displayed at various conferences. Activity in relation to the National Curriculum has now quietened down as legislation has been completed, though a summary of the implications was published in Geophemera and monitoring of the implementation is still advisable. Yet again we considered NERC policies and allocations of research funding. We wrote to the Department of the Environment on proposals for a new 428 IBG Study Groups Environmental Agency. Individual members became more involved in RIGS groups on the conservation side.

The BGRG Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of David Jones, considered that it was time that the BGRG re-examined its purpose, activities and organisation in the light of the developments and changes taking place in various spheres. To this end an Extraordinary EC Meeting was held to discuss our medium-term objectives and how these might be achieved.

Key issues considered included whether a higher profile was needed; whether we change our name; whether our meetings programme and strategy achieves our aims, whether further publication initiatives should be pursued and how the committee structure and tasks might be re-organised in view of objectives and pressures of work. Developments which have taken place and which may impinge on BGRG include the formation of the International Association of Geomorphologists; the formation of the Environmental Research Group as a study group of the IBG; the increasing involvement in educational issues at all levels and changes in higher education institutions affecting learned societies and professional bodies. Ideas for changes and new initiatives were set out in a paper in Geophemera in July and are to be discussed by the membership at the AGM. The committee suggests that stronger links with Europe are desirable, that regional field meetings with published field guides would be attractive, that postgraduates should be represented on the committee, that posts of Meetings Office and Conservation Officer on the committee should be designated and that the roles of External Relations and Press Officers should be strengthened.

In summary it has been another eventful year for BGRG with continuation of our usual activities, some new initiatives and some internal discussion to ensure that we are an effective body through the 1990s

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