



# PRESS RELEASE

**1st October 2018**

## **Opening our doors to the public**

More than 500 people arrived at the Lyell Centre on Saturday 29 September to enjoy a packed schedule at the annual Doors Open Day.

Special access was granted to building which is the home of the British Geological Centre (BGS), in Scotland, and some of Heriot-Watt University's scientists. Young and old took the opportunity to meet the scientists and engineers and learn about the fascinating research that is being undertaken.

There was the chance for visitors to get hands-on with sea creatures in a marine touch tank, find out about remote sensing, get a close up look at the robotic assisted living lab, and visit the 3D visualisation suite.

It is the second year Heriot-Watt and the BGS have partnered together to host the Doors Open Day on campus.

Co-Director of the Lyell Centre Tracy Shimmield, BGS said: "The Lyell Centre is a joint collaboration between the British Geological Survey and Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, which builds on our individual and combined interdisciplinary expertise in land and marine conservation, geology and geoscience.

"We always seek out opportunities to share our science with members of the public and we look forward to taking part in Doors Open Day each year.

"Our scientists thoroughly enjoyed participating in the event, as much as our visitors."

This year's Doors Open Day event linked into Heriot-Watt University's Year of Sea campaign – which is a year-long calendar of activity, spanning schools, the public, academia, industry collaborators, funders and policy makers.

The University will host a Student Open Day on Friday 26 October for prospective students, giving them the opportunity to immerse themselves in the university experience and discover more about the subject areas. For more information or to register visit [here](#).

**\*Ends\***



## Notes for Editors:

### The Lyell Centre

The Lyell Centre is a joint collaboration between the British Geological Survey and Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, which builds on our individual and combined interdisciplinary expertise in land and marine conservation, geology and geoscience. Based at Heriot-Watt University's Edinburgh campus, the Lyell Centre strives to be one of Europe's leading centres for research and expertise in the earth and marine sciences.

### British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS) is a world leading applied geoscience research centre that is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and affiliated to the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). BGS core science provides objective and authoritative geoscientific data, information and knowledge to inform UK Government on the opportunities and challenges of the subsurface. It undertakes national and public good research to understand earth and environmental processes in the UK and globally. The BGS annual budget of approximately £60 million pa is funded directly by UKRI, as well as research grants, government commissions and private sector contracts. Its 650 staff work across the UK with two main sites, the head office in Nottingham and Lyell Centre, a joint collaboration with Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. BGS works with more than 150 private sector organisations, has close links to 40 universities and sponsors about 100 PhD students each year. Please see [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk).

### Doors Open Days

Doors Open Days is coordinated nationally by the Scottish Civic Trust. It runs throughout Scotland every September as part of European Heritage Days. For more information see [www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk) or [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk)

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