

Text for BSG Annual Report 2024 (prepared September 2025):

COMMITTEE REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) " (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The charity is established to advance research, education and professional practice in the science of geomorphology, in particular: through the promotion of research; by the formation of working parties dealing with co-operative projects; by the publication of the results of such research; by the holding of meetings; and by cooperating with kindred organisations. The charity's vision is to ensure geomorphology as a discipline plays a leading role in developing knowledge and understanding of the changing natural environment and its relationship with society. The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in setting the grant making policy for the year.

The charity's mission is to advance the science of geomorphology, promoting the discipline, and providing a community and services for those involved in geomorphological education teaching, research, application and to those who have a passion for geomorphology.

The charity achieves these missions through the award of small grants, primarily to postgraduates, early career researchers, and other higher education and professional practitioners; through support for organisation of and attendance at, scientific and educational meetings, through sponsorship of working groups; through the publication of the results of research in books including the online Geomorphological Techniques and, especially, through its Journal, *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, published in association with Wiley; and through the maintenance of an open access website. These activities are overseen by five Sub-committees of the Executive Committee. Grants are awarded on an open competitive basis twice a year. Recipients of grants are required to report to the relevant Sub-committee on the supported activities.

The Charity is in the form of a Society open for membership to anyone with an interest in geomorphology.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

At the end of calendar year 2024 the Society continued to exceed its target reserves; cash on hand was £128,478.43 against a target reserves balance of £89,105. There was a drawdown of £15,274.97 across the calendar year. The Society's financial strategy in 2024 was to implement a 'breakeven' model of income and expenditure; it was anticipated this would be achieved by reducing the total amount available for research-related grants to £35,000 (from £50,000 in 2023). The 'breakeven' model was not realised in 2024, in large part due to expenditure for both the 2023 and 2024 Annual Meetings falling in the 2024 reporting period. We continue to implement the 'breakeven' model and will be in a stronger position to reflect on the level of success in the next reporting cycle.

The Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual Meeting was hosted by Loughborough University in early September 2024. It was very well attended and is to be regarded as a success. The meeting incorporated the second Cuchlaine King Symposium, which was themed on 'Extreme Events in Geomorphology'. The symposium strengthens links with the Society's publishing affiliate, Wiley, encouraging meeting participants and the wider membership and geomorphological community to contribute to an associated Special Issue of *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*. The Society subsidises the Annual Meeting and was invoiced for £5,004.18 in December 2024. For reference, the recipients of the Society's various awards for 2024 were: Sanjeev Gupta (Linton Award), Alexander Neely (Mike Kirkby Award), Georgina King (Gordon Warwick Award), Athena Eftychiou (Marjorie Sweeting Award), and Anya Leeman (Dick Chorley Award). In addition, the Society was invoiced £18,293.74 for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Grant Disbursement and Awards

One of the main activities of the Society consists of providing grants to support research and outreach and facilitate conference attendance, especially to postgraduate and early career researchers. The Society also provides funding to support geomorphological sessions at scientific conference in the UK and abroad, and it has awarded prizes to individuals to mark particular achievements. Grants and awards are competitive, with the selection process being overseen by the relevant sub-committees (e.g., Research sub-committee and Outreach sub-committees for research and outreach grants, respectively). Outreach sub-committee for outreach grants). An overview of grant disbursement is found in the 'Financial review' section of this report.

Postgraduate Development

The Society's main Postgraduate Development activity is the December Windsor workshop, which consists of a series of training courses aimed at new postgraduate researchers. The workshop is subsidised by the Society, and the International Association of Geomorphologists offers financial support for international students. Another well-attended and successful workshop was run in December 2024, and the total cost to the Society (after income from registration) was £7,422.51, including venue hire fees and volunteer expenses.

Enhancing the reputation of the BSG

The Society continues to develop its international profile through sponsorship and co-sponsorship of sessions at conferences, including those hosted by the European Geosciences Union (EGU). These sessions sometimes run jointly with other allied societies including the Quaternary Research Association, and the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG; RGS-IBG). The Society has an avenue for members to become Chartered Geomorphologists, CGeoG (Geomorph) via the RGS-IBG. This is the professional status qualification for those with competences, experience and professionalism in the field.

Financial review

The activities outlined above are possible thanks to membership subscriptions and the annual Wiley grant and royalty payments in relation to the Society's academic journal *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, whose title is jointly owned with the Society. The Society incurred a small operating cost in 2024, primarily due to the commitment of unpaid committee members, and a model of substituting in-person committee meetings with virtual alternatives – committee expenses totalled £895.75 for the year. We employ a Financial and Administrative Assistant part-time, and this incurred an overall expenditure of £8,004.52.

Annual surplus and cash flow

Total income in the year was £89,276.86 and expenditure was £104,551.83, generating a drawdown of £15,274.97. At the end of the 2024 reporting period, the Society held £60,906.44 in its current account and £26,265.95 in its PayPal account. True cash reserves were therefore £87,172.39, and overall reserves were £128,478.43 including externally held investments.

Income from membership subscriptions was £8,666.67, down from £10,117.31 in 2023 (£8,902.92 in 2022 and £8,331.16 in 2021). This remains a relatively low income compared to its pre-Covid peak (£19,429 in 2019) and is because the Society's membership fees remain low to encourage steady growth of the membership base. Income from Wiley in the form of a block grant, and royalties attached to the Society's journal *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, decreased slightly in 2024, amounting to £76,767.00 compared to £79,193.52 in 2023, a decrease of £2,426.52.

The operational costs associated with running the Society in 2024 were £18,112.50, a decrease of £1,967.39 compared to 2023. This includes the second sponsorship payment (of £5,000) from the Society to the Royal

Geographical Society-affiliated “Fi Wi Road” internship programme, which provides support for Black and mixed-Black heritage students in building networks, voice and experience within geographical disciplines. It continues to be itemised as a miscellaneous cost in 2024 but may be attached to a separate budget heading next year. Other “running costs” include committee expenses, employment of the financial and administrative assistant, and additional miscellaneous expenses (liability insurance, accounting costs, bank fees, etc).

In 2024, the Society disbursed £36,413.00 to support research, attendance at scientific conferences, working groups and workshops, mostly to postgraduates and early career researchers. The total amount available for research-related grants was reduced in 2024 to £35,000 – this decision was made to achieve a breakeven budget.

Reserve and Investment Accounts and reserves policy

At the end of 2024 the value of our Jupiter Ecology Fund Investment was £41,306.04; this investment had increased in value by £1,027.96 over the course of the year. At the end of 2024, the Society’s available funds stood at £128,478.43 (£140,297.92 in 2023, £157,611 in 2022). The Society therefore maintained a surplus of £39,373.43 above its target reserves balance of £89,105. However, given that the vast majority of the Society’s income is received in Spring (i.e. the two Wiley payments) and expenditure is distributed more evenly throughout the year, it is useful to reflect on the available funds at the ‘low point’ of the year – this occurred on 14 April 2024, at which point the Society held £106,101.52 in available funds, which was £16,997.52 above the target reserves level. The Treasurer and wider Finance Sub-committee will continue to closely monitor income and expenditure, with a view to ensuring that, ideally, the Society’s available funds do not dip below the target reserves level at the Spring low point. Members of the Executive Committee met with the Society’s accountants in 2023 to discuss the appropriateness of the current target reserves level – it was decided that the current level is appropriate under the current circumstances, but that increasing this slightly (to ~£100,000) could further improve resilience and would be prudent given that the Society’s operational costs, and the various activities that it supports, are not immune to inflationary pressures. The Society’s reserves policy may be updated in due course to reflect an uplift and will continue to be reviewed annually. No action was taken to update the target reserves in 2024.

Risk management policy

The Executive Committee has reviewed and keeps under review the risks facing the Society and has in place the necessary policies to mitigate those risks.

Forecast income and expenditure 2025 and beyond

The Society retains a surplus. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Society’s ability to disburse grants and financially support various other activities has now diminished, signalled by renewed interest from members in the Society’s various grant offerings, and healthy attendance at recent meetings and workshops, including the Windsor Workshop, and CPD-focused events organised by the Professional Geomorphology Sub-Committee.

The Society’s financial position will continue to be regularly reviewed by the Treasurer and discussed at Finance Sub-committee and Executive Committee meetings. We will intend to work towards breakeven income-expenditure in 2025.

The Society remains largely dependent on Wiley and our journal, *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, for its income; combined, these sources represent ~90% of the Society’s income. For now, this income stream remains generally stable. However, a future shift by Wiley to an Open Access publishing model is almost certain and given the uncertainty that this might create, the Society is exploring ways to diversify its income and adapt expenditure to increase future financial resilience.

Membership of the Society continues to present excellent value for money given ongoing access to grant opportunities, reduced registration rates for the Annual Meeting, network-building initiatives, and a growing range of activities that promote and advance geomorphology through research, education, and the dissemination of knowledge. As previously communicated and agreed during the Annual General Meeting, the Society will implement an increase to membership dues, effective 1st January 2025. This is to reinstate pre-Covid membership dues, plus a further rise of ~10% to reflect wider inflationary pressures. We will introduce a staggered membership model with the aim of reducing financial barriers to inclusion and attracting members from underrepresented countries.

We retain a positive outlook for 2025. We expect income to increase slightly due to the adjustments in membership subscription rates, whilst expenditure will broadly balance against income. It is anticipated that any surplus will be retained and used to increase our reserves. As above, the Society’s finances will be

discussed at various points in 2025, and budgets for the following year will be reviewed and agreed prior to Christmas.

Structure, governance and management

The BSG is a charitable incorporated organisation registered on 6 August 2018 under charity number 1179467. The governing document is the charity's constitution registered on the same date. Its address is c/o Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

| Trustee | Role | Notes |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Dr Matilda Biddulph | Active | Appointed 09 September 2021 |
| Dr Hywel Griffiths | Active | Appointed 14 September 2021 |
| Dr Elizabeth Dingle | Active | Appointed 14 September 2021 |
| Dr Annie Ockelford | Active | Appointed 07 September 2022 |
| Dr Catherine Sanders | Active | Appointed 07 February 2023 |
| Dr Stuart Grieve | Active | Appointed 06 September 2023 |
| Dr Christopher Hackney | Active | Appointed 07 September 2023 |
| Dr Fiona Caithness | Active | Appointed 08 February 2024 |
| Prof Stephen Rice | Active | Appointed 05 September 2024 |
| Prof Ian Candy | Active | Appointed 05 September 2024 |
| Dr Morgan Jones | Active | Appointed 05 September 2024 |
| Dr Richard Boothroyd | Active | Appointed 05 September 2024 |
| Dr Oliver Grant | Active | Appointed 05 September 2024 |
| Dr Emma Shuttleworth | Active | Appointed 05 September 2024 |
| Dr Richard Williams | Inactive | Resigned |
| Prof Heather Viles | Inactive | Resigned |
| Dr Matthew Westoby | Inactive | Resigned |
| Dr Sarah Callard | Inactive | Resigned |
| Dr Hannah Williams | Inactive | Resigned |

There must be between eight and fourteen charity trustees (currently 14). The trustees retire by rotation.

Information pertaining to the Society's constitution, and finance, ethics, and data protection and security policies are publicly available on the Society's website, which is maintained at www.geomorphology.org.uk.

The Society is led by the President, and managed by the Executive Committee which normally meets three times each year. The Executive Committee membership comprises: the President and five principal officers of the charity (Chair, Senior Deputy Chair, Junior Deputy Chair, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer), plus three Vice-Chairs (Research, Publications, Outreach) and three Ordinary Secretaries (Research, Publications, Outreach). At Executive Committee meetings, postgraduate members are represented by one or more of the three elected postgraduate representatives.

There are five Sub-Committees concerned with: Research, Education & Outreach, Publications, Finance, and Professional Geomorphology and Practice, as well as a Postgraduate Forum. Together, these Sub-committees drive the missions of the Society and report to the Executive Committee. There is an EDI working group with membership drawn from the Executive Committee.

The day to day running of the Charity rests with the Executive and Sub-Committees but in practice falls largely to the Chairs, Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer, supported by a part-time administrative and finance assistant.

BSG Executive Committee [correct at 31/12/24]

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|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Prof Stephen Rice | President |
| Dr Annie Ockelford | Chair |
| Dr Christopher Hackney | Senior Deputy Chair |
| Prof Ian Candy | Junior Deputy Chair |
| Dr Fiona Caithness | Honorary Secretary |
| Dr Richard Boothroyd | Honorary Treasurer |
| Dr Emma Shuttleworth | VC Research SC |
| Dr Catherine Sanders | OS Research SC |
| Dr Hywel Griffiths | VC Outreach and Education SC |

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|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dr Morgan Jones | OS Outreach and Education SC |
| Dr Stuart Grieve | VC Communications and Publications SC |
| Dr Elizabeth Dingle | OS Communications and Publications SC |
| Dr Matilda Biddulph | VC Professional Geomorphology SC |
| Dr Oliver Grant | OS Professional Geomorphology SC |
| Mr Jayesh Mukherjee | VC Postgraduate Forum |
| Dr Joshua Ahmed | Membership Secretary |

Relations of the Charity with Other Organisations

The British Society for Geomorphology is affiliated to the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) and to the Geological Society of London. The charity's permanent office is located at the premises of the Royal Geographical Society.

The British Society for Geomorphology is also a member of the International Association of Geomorphologists, to which it pays an annual membership fee.

This Committee report has been sent to the Board of Trustees for approval.



Dr R J Boothroyd
Trustee (and Honorary Treasurer)

03 September 2025