

BSG Fixed Term Working Group on Reduced Complexity Modelling in Geomorphology

Annual Report

The working group commenced in September 2006 and has met on two occasions over the past year. The first meeting was held in March 2007 at the RGS, where the scope and aims of the working group were discussed. A series of presentations were made by Tom Coulthard (Hull), Clare Cox (Cambridge), Nick Odoni (Southampton), Andrew Nicholas (Exeter) and John Wainwright (Sheffield). Also present were Steve Darby (Southampton), Richard Hardy (Durham) and Keith Richards (Cambridge). Presentations formed the basis for subsequent discussion in which the following topics were covered:

- Reduced-complexity flow routing schemes and their relative strengths and weaknesses
- What constitutes sufficient physics in reduced complexity models?
- Model validation strategies
- Equifinality in landscape evolution models
- Approaches to modelling human-landscape interactions

A second, informal meeting was held at the BSG annual meeting in Birmingham in July 2007, at which members of the group discussed plans for the group's future activity. On the basis of this discussion the following activities have been planned:

- To convene a session at the EGU in Vienna in 2008 (this session has been proposed by Coulthard, Nicholas and Andreas Baas (Kings)).
- To convene a session at the BSG in Exeter in 2008 (this session will be chaired by Keith Richards).
- To explore the scope for publishing output from the group's activity. To this end we have begun discussions with Stuart Lane about the prospects of publishing material in ESPL. We hope to do this in two formats: (1) A review paper that acts as a benchmark statement for the geomorphological community and which can serve to set the future research agenda in this field; and (2) a Special Issue of ESPL on the theme of reduced complexity modelling, with contributions from presenters attending one of the conference sessions outlined above. The likely timescale for these publications is 2008 for the review paper and 2009/2010 for the special issue.

At the outset, it was the group's expectation that BSG funds provided to resource the group's activity (£250 pa) would be available to support the travel costs of members when attending meetings. However, in its first year of existence all attendees at meetings were able to cover their own travel costs and no requests for support were made to the group. In light of this the chairs of the working group propose that funds are used in future to support the attendance of presenters (either oral or poster) at either of the conference sessions outlined above. This opportunity would be advertised via the BSG website and preference would be given to requests made by postgraduate students.