

NEWS

BGS highlights Covid-19 response in visit from Borough Council

Monday, 6 July 2020

The British Geological Survey (BGS) has welcomed chief officials from Rushcliffe Borough Council to its headquarters in Keyworth, in a visit to demonstrate the important measures BGS is taking in response to the coronavirus.

BGS Executive Director, Dr Karen Hanghøj, met with Kath Marriott, Chief Executive of Rushcliffe Borough Council and Dave Banks, Executive Manager Neighbourhoods, on Monday [6 July]. They were joined by Andrew Bloodworth, BGS Policy Science Director.

The visit was an opportunity for BGS to showcase the hygiene and distancing measures it has in place to safeguard employees returning to work on site in line with government guidance and the advice given to protect the local community.

Visitors were asked to follow BGS' on-site safety system and to follow social distancing measures throughout the visit.

It was also an opportunity for BGS to talk about the development of its ambitious new sustainability strategy, which aims to reach net zero by 2040 and how it will review the impact of its Covid-19 response in order to adopt further long-term sustainable working practices.

BGS Executive Director, Dr Karen Hanghøj, said: "It is a pleasure welcoming Kath and David to show how we are addressing Covid-19 on a daily basis to ensure our response is safe, resilient and adapts to government guidance.

"The pandemic has allowed us to reflect on the importance of our outdoor landscapes and environment. We feel this is an opportunity for BGS to reinforce its commitment to creating a safer, more sustainable future and that has to start from our own front door.

"We are very pleased to share details with Karen and David about the work we are doing to reduce our carbon footprint and create more sustainable pathways for working, a strategy that we intend to apply across all operations and working sites in the UK as we move forwards."

During early stages of the lockdown, BGS Chief Scientist Melanie Leng MBE, donated car loads of vital PPE and materials to support local front line staff at a time when shortages were widely reported.

Many other BGS employees have been contributing virtually to research groups from home, and volunteering throughout the lockdown to support the government's Covid-19 response.

BGS Keyworth headquarters, which houses the national core facility in addition to scientific research and testing facilities, has recently re-opened to allow for minimal operations and essential research to be carried out in line with government guidance.

All other BGS sites in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Wallingford remain closed and BGS continues to support employees working from home.

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