



PRESS RELEASE

13th June 2019

Research institute Akvaplan-niva visits the Lyell Centre

Akvaplan-niva has visited the Lyell Centre, a strategic partnership between British Geological Survey (BGS) and Heriot-Watt University (HWU), today (Thursday 13th June).

Over 50 employees from the Norwegian institute, an independent research institute that conducts research and provides services to the aquaculture and petroleum industries and government, spent a few hours with Lyell Centre staff learning about their expertise in marine and land geoscience and discovering the state-of-the-art facilities the centre has to offer.

The Lyell Centre allows Heriot-Watt University and the British Geological Survey to work together combining their expertise. Exploring themes ranging from geology and geophysics to marine ecosystems, the centre's combination of pure and applied expertise employs innovative methods and technologies to societies' most important environmental science and energy challenges

The group were welcomed by Professor Teresa Fernandes, Director of the Institute of Life and Earth Sciences, Heriot-Watt University, for introductory talks on key research areas of focus, and potential areas for collaboration, and by Dr David Schofield, Science Director, National Geoscience, British Geological Survey who informed the visitors of the Lyell Centre's goals and about the strengths which come from both organisations working together.

In addition to this, the guests were given a tour of the labs based within the Lyell Centre, the BGS Marine Operations base at the £21m purpose-built facility and the HWU aquarium.

JoLynn Carroll, Manager for R&D, Akvaplan-niva, said: "The breadth and diversity of the information provided to Akvaplan-niva by the students, faculty, and specialists in technology and innovation working at the Lyell Centre and the Institute of Life and Earth Sciences was impressive.

"I am hopeful that this visit will lead to the establishment of a long-term partnership based on the sharing of complementary expertise and resources to achieve excellence in research and innovation."

Dr Tracy Shimmield, Director of the Lyell Centre, said: "We are delighted that Akvaplan-niva approached us to find out more about the Lyell Centre and engage with our scientists face-to-face. This has provided us with a great opportunity to learn about each other and connect and we hope this may lead to potential collaboration in the future."

Professor Fernandes said: "It is a pleasure to welcome such a large delegation from a key institution in Norway which works in areas very akin to ours within the Institute of Life and Earth Sciences. The feedback we received on the talks,

the posters displayed and tours of the John Muir building and the Lyell Centre facilities has been fantastic. The enthusiasm and energy are clear and ideas and future plans are already being discussed. We very much look forward to the next steps and to increased collaboration between our institutions.”

Ends

Notes for Editors:

The Lyell Centre

The Lyell Centre is a strategic partnership 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.

The British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS), a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users. The BGS maintains and develops the nation's understanding of its geology to improve policy making, enhance national wealth and reduce risk. It also collaborates with the national and international scientific community in carrying out research in strategic areas, including energy and natural resources, our vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and our general knowledge of the Earth system. More about the BGS can be found at www.bgs.ac.uk

Heriot-Watt University

Heriot-Watt is a specialist, pioneering University, with a global presence, world renowned, innovative research and highly employable graduates.
www.hw.ac.uk

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