

**British  
Geological Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

**ASK EVENT**  
Briefing report

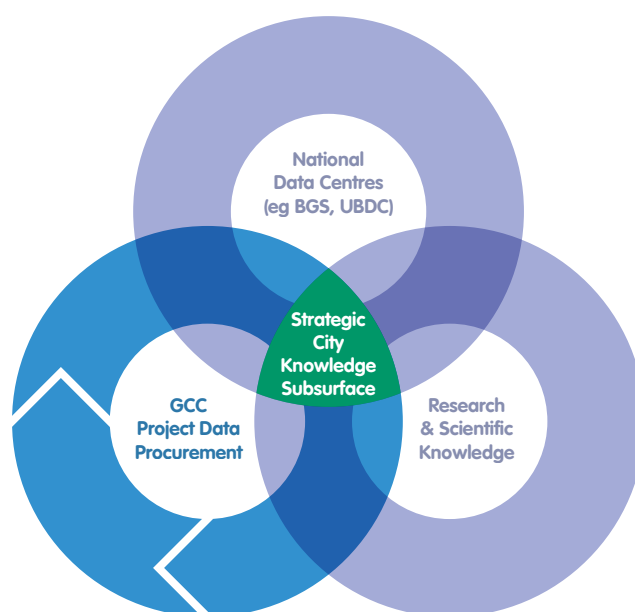
# ASK Network Event

30 January 2017

The ASK Network event was attended by 80 representatives from public, private, government and research sectors.

There was significant representation and engagement by private sector geotechnical and engineering consultants, as well as regional and local development plan groups from local government within from central and southern Scotland. Work initiatives from London (ThinkDeep UK) and Black Country (Brownfield Regeneration and Innovation Centre) were also represented.

Presentations were made by PAS, Glasgow City Council, Black Country Consortium, Scottish Improvement Service Spatial Information Hub, BGS, NERC (BGS) National Geoscience Data Centre, SWECO and Think Deep UK initiative. These set out some of the wider drivers and mechanisms for greater and earlier utilisation of knowledge of ground conditions and opportunities in the development process, to help inform local development plan policy and investment, and to increase certainty to later design and construction phases.





### The day's discussions highlighted

- many different types of subsurface data and information are available, and that they are appropriate to different decisions within the city development process – but currently they are often not necessarily used in the most effective order.
- there are many shared issues and drivers for future data use – within early strategic decisions, and later design and construction phases of development.
- difficulty in finding the most relevant data to inform decisions, and appropriate sources, was highlighted by all sectors.
- the need to develop higher impact from data and knowledge to inform funding and investment decisions at all stages of the development process was also clearly highlighted by all sectors.
- there is a need to increase the visibility of relevant spatial information to executive levels of organisations to realise higher impact, and cascade downstream benefit through informed policy and development approaches.

### Your ASK Network

BGS is looking to develop the wider web services it is able to provide – Feedback from all members of the ASK Network are invited to help shape this, according to stakeholder and sector requirements. Please email any comments to how you would like to see BGS web services developed to: [ngdc@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:ngdc@bgs.ac.uk) starting your email with "ASK feedback".

### Future uses of BGS National Geoscience Digital Data Portal and Improvement Service Spatial Hub

We need centralised access to distributed, standardised data, some consolidation of data into community or national data centres may well help in this regard, such as NGDC especially in applying standardisation, tagging and the professional delivery aspects. The Improvement Service Spatial Hub may be particularly useful for increasing accessibility of relevant data to local government.

There is a need for increased centralisation and standardisation of data to improve the accessibility and re-use. The ASK Network has been instrumental in driving this forward at a national scale, and the development of the UK Digital Data Portal which is now hosted by the BGS National Geoscience Data Centre.

Data can be deposited to the BGS portal at:  
<http://transfer.bgs.ac.uk/ingestion>

Data can be re-accessed from BGS at:  
<http://webservices.bgs.ac.uk/accessions>

Spatial information products can be accessed at:  
[www.bgs.ac.uk/products](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products)

BGS is starting development work on Portal "phase 2" in April 2017, which will see the launch of new re-access service for AGS data in 2017.

For more information please contact:

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