

Groundwater in Fractured Bedrock Environments: Managing Catchment and Subsurface Resources

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Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland



Across the UK & Ireland, fractured bedrock aquifers have been traditionally regarded as low productivity aquifers, with only limited relevance to regional groundwater resources. But it has been increasingly recognised that these complex bedrock aquifers can play an important role in catchment management and subsurface energy systems.

At shallow to intermediate depth, fractured bedrock aquifers help to sustain surface water baseflows and groundwater dependent ecosystems, provide local groundwater supplies and impact on contaminant transfers on a catchment scale. At greater depths, understanding the properties and groundwater flow regimes of these complex bedrock environments can be crucial for the successful installation of subsurface energy and storage systems, such as deep geothermal or aquifer thermal energy storage systems and natural gas or CO₂ storage facilities as well as the exploration of natural resources such as conventional/unconventional oil and gas.

In many scenarios, a robust understanding of fractured bedrock environments is required to assess the nature and extent of connectivity between such energy & storage systems at depth and overlying receptors in the shallow subsurface or above ground.

Conference Focus:

This conference will focus on the role of fractured bedrock aquifers in catchment management and in managing subsurface resources.

Call for Abstracts:

We welcome oral and poster presentations for this conference. To be considered for a slot in the programme or a poster presentation, please send an abstract of no more than 400 words to Jess Aries (jess.aries@geolsoc.org.uk), no later than Friday, 27 November 2015.

Convenors:

Dr. Ulrich Ofterdinger
(Queen's University Belfast)

Prof. Alan MacDonald (BGS)

Dr. Jean-Christophe Comte
(University of Aberdeen)

Mike Young (The Geological Society)

Further information:

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