

## 10. QRA Meetings Officer Annual Report 2022

Although there were continuing restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic earlier in the year a number of meetings have been held during 2022 (see below). As would be expected the number of meetings over the past two years has declined due to the pandemic. However, the Quaternary Engineering Research Group led by Paul Fish (Jacobs) have been very active this past year. They have not only organised the 2022 QRA ADM, but also two very successful field meetings base in Western Cumbria and Anglesey/North Wales. The following “advert” will be sent to all QRA members early in 2022 encouraging more people to become involved and offer to lead field trips, workshops and discussion meetings.

“The QRA organises a range of meetings each year including our Annual Discussion Meeting held in early January, as well as field meetings, workshops and the Postgraduate Symposium. After the restrictions of the pandemic, we would very much welcome offers from researchers to run field meetings related to any aspect of Quaternary science in the UK or Europe. Offers to organise specialist one- or two-day workshops and/or discussion meetings, which focus on any aspect of Quaternary science worldwide, are also very welcome. These workshops and discussion meetings can either be on-line or in-person. In particular we would especially welcome offers to run a meeting from a diverse range of early career scientists as a QRA meeting is a great way to show case your research. If you would like to find out more or submit an offer to run a QRA meeting then please email [meetings@qra.org.uk](mailto:meetings@qra.org.uk)”

### Meetings held in 2022:

#### **QRA Annual Discussion Meeting 2022**

5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Quaternary Glaciations: Processes, environments and reconstructions.

Location: The University of Sheffield

Meeting Organisers/Leaders: Jeremy Ely, Chris Clark, Ann Rowan, Mark Bateman, Jennifer Doole, Stephen Livingstone, Grant Bigg, Darrel Swift.

The 2022 QRA ADM took place on the 5th to the 7th of January 2022, hosted by the Department of Geography, The University of Sheffield. We held out optimism for a hybrid in-person and online event. However, the rise in COVID-19 cases caused by the Omicron variant meant that in December 2021 the decision was made to host an online-only event. Zoom was used to host discussions, whilst a bespoke conference website hosted posters and discussions (via [www.padlet.com](http://www.padlet.com)). Despite the change of format, attendance remained high throughout the conference (>100 attendees in each session; Table 1) and 205 people registered for attendance. The conference comprised of 48 presentations, split evenly between posters and oral formats. Talks were given a 15-minute slot (12 minutes talking, 3 for questions). In each poster session, the zoom attendance was split into two rooms. Posters had a 2-3 minute introduction each at the start of the dedicated poster session, before circulating between the six posters in each virtual room.

#### **QRA/Quaternary Engineering Research Group field meeting to West Cumbria 2022**

17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The Quaternary engineering geology of the West Cumbria region.

Location: Santon Bridge, West Cumbria

Meeting Organisers/Leaders: The trip leaders were Jon Merritt and Emrys Phillips (British Geological Survey), Paul Fish and Chris Coleman (Jacobs), Nick Smith (National Nuclear Laboratory), with contributions from Sinead Birks (Imperial College), Dave Evans (Durham University) and Keith Nicholls (Network Rail).

The west Cumbria QRA meeting was based in the village of Santon Bridge, with the village hall used for evening talks and discussion and the village pub used for meals. The village hall was also used for budget accommodation, with others staying in local B&Bs, camping or staying in motor homes. The trip was attended by 30 people (77% male) with a good mix of backgrounds (10 academics, 3 unwaged

PhD students, 3 from BGS, 12 from industry and a further 2 recently retired from industry). Industry representation was from Sellafield, the Low-Level Waste Repository, National Nuclear Laboratory, Network Rail, Jacobs and Arup). It was good to see the first QRA Engineering Group so well supported by industry colleagues.

COVID did not impact the trip. Attendees tested prior to travelling to site and no illness was reported after the trip. Car sharing was employed where-ever possible to minimise traffic on small local roads and ensure sufficient space in car parks.

Since attendees covered their own accommodation and meals, costs associated with the trip were limited to hire of the village hall and provision of drinks and snacks for evening talks. This was covered by the QRA meeting grant.

A field guide was not issued for this event, but field notes were provided to attendees by email.

### **QRA/Quaternary Engineering Research Group/Glacial Landforms Working Group field meeting to Anglesey and North Wales 2022**

27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Field training course in sedimentology, engineering geology and geohazard significance of glacial and periglacial sediments

Location: The Conway Centre, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, Anglesey.

Meeting Organisers: David Evans (University of Durham), Paul Fish (Jacobs), Julian Murton (University of Sussex), Simon Price (Arup)

Field trip leaders: Dave Evans (Durham University), Emrys Phillips (British Geological Survey), and Julian Murton (University of Sussex).

The course attracted 47 delegates and was aimed at a broad audience including students, industry geoscience professionals and researchers with backgrounds in geomorphology, sedimentology and engineering geology/geoscience. The course will also benefit established engineering geologists, hydrogeologists and other geoscientists working in formerly glaciated or periglacial terrains who need greater detail than standard engineering soil and rock descriptions defined by BS5930 (2015).

The field training course will elaborate on published guidance with practical field- and laboratory-based exercises led by experts in the field drawn from academia, civil engineering industries and the British Geological Survey. The course included: stratigraphic principles; engineering ground models and geohazards; glacial and periglacial process sedimentology and sedimentary structures; sediment description, vertical profile logging, section sketching and core logging; sediment consolidation and shear strength; clast microfabric, shape, lithology and geochemistry; micromorphology and geophysical investigations.

### **Future Meetings:**

#### **QRA field meeting to Wester Ross 2023**

18<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 The Quaternary of Wester Ross: glacier dynamics and post-LGM evolution of glaciated mountainous terrain

Location: Ullapool

Meeting Organisers/Leaders: Colin Ballantyne.

Details of the meeting and how to register will be posted on the website and emailed to members early in 2023.

#### **QRA Annual Discussion Meeting 2024**

January 2023. 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the QRA.

Location: Manchester Metropolitan University

Meeting Organisers/Leaders: Cathy Delaney, Kathryn Adamson, Iestyn Barr at Manchester Metropolitan University and Chris Darvill and Anna Hughes at University of Manchester.

Dates and details of the meeting are to be confirmed.

### **Emrys Phillips**

December 2022