

# DEEP GEOTHERMAL PROJECT



**Progress report  
August 2025**

# DEEP GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

A journey for the future source of knowledge.



## PROJECT UPDATE: AUGUST 2025

[york.ac.uk/geothermal](https://york.ac.uk/geothermal)

Summer 2025 has seen new activity for our geothermal energy project here at the University of York. From kick-starting research collaboration ideas to continuing our LED lighting upgrades on campus, we're excited to share our latest progress on the project.



### DEEP GEOTHERMAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION WORKSHOP

On 16 July, we hosted our first research collaboration workshop at the University of York. The event brought together UoY researchers to learn more about the geothermal project and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

Speakers included Andy Dougill (Dean of Sciences and project board chair), Dave Diston (Head of Research Development) and David Boon (Senior Engineering & Geothermal Geologist, British Geological Survey), who shared insights into the project's aims and research potential.

After the presentations, attendees joined roundtable discussions to explore how their research could connect with the project. Following the workshop, colleagues were invited to submit proposals for potential research themes and projects, which will help shape the University's geothermal research vision and future external investment opportunities.

As a step forward, a Geothermal Research Steering Group is being established with the first meeting scheduled for October.







## UPDATE ON LED LIGHTING UPGRADES

As part of the wider project, funding has enabled our campus lighting to be improved with our buildings being upgraded to energy-efficient LEDs. Our first building, the Research Centre for Social Sciences, is now complete and has been officially handed over by our contractors J Lister Electricals. Work is also well underway in the Biocentre and Innovation Centre, with Alcuin K, L, N, and Alcuin A & B close to finishing.

The new lighting has already been very positively received not only for its energy-saving benefits but also for improving comfort in office spaces by reducing issues such as eye strain and migraines.



Lighting upgrades in Research Centre for Social Sciences



Yorkshire House handover with J Lister Electricals

## WHAT'S COMING UP: SEISMIC SURVEY

As the next step in our geothermal project, a seismic survey will take place on Campus East and surrounding areas in late October 2025. This important early-stage activity, delivered with our specialist contractor Echo Geo, will build a detailed 3D map of the ground and help us understand the size, shape and depth of the geothermal reservoir beneath our feet. Some parts of the reservoir may lie several kilometres below the surface and beneath the borehole on Campus East, so the survey provides a safe, non-intrusive way to collect data and build a clear picture of the project's potential energy output.



Find out more,  
read our FAQs  
and get involved



### The process

#### Step 1: Lay out the nodes

Thousands of small sensors are placed in a GPS-mapped pattern.

#### Step 2: Vibroseis truck

A truck sends vibrations into the ground; the nodes record the echoes.

#### Step 3: Analyse the data

The signals are processed into a geological map to pinpoint the best site for a geothermal borehole.

### Key dates

- **Mid September:** A one-day test survey takes place on campus within these dates.
- **Mid October:** Nodes are layed out across survey area.
- **Late October:** Vibroseis trucks work their way along survey lines.
- **Mid November:** Nodes are collected and data analysis begins.

### Get involved

#### Add a node in your garden

If you live in the survey area, you could play a direct role by hosting a small seismic sensor in your garden. It's simple, safe and will help us collect vital data.

#### Paid opportunity for students

We're looking for students to support the survey work, helping with tasks like placing and collecting sensors and leafletting in the survey area. Apply via our webpage.