

DEEP GEOTHERMAL PROJECT



**Progress report
September & October 2025**

york.ac.uk/geothermal

September & October update

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION

Throughout September and October, our geothermal energy project has seen lots of activity, from preparations for our upcoming seismic survey to a range of exciting community engagement events. It has also been a period of sharing knowledge and celebrating collaboration through public talks, open days and national recognition in the engineering community.

Seismic survey planning

We've been getting ready for our seismic survey works taking place from the end of October until mid-November. Delivered by our specialist contractors, Echo Geo, this important early-stage activity 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.

In September, we carried out a seismic test on Campus West and nearby farmland as part of our preparations. We have also been working closely with the local community through leaflet drops, open days, direct conversations, and online information, including an interactive map and FAQs about the survey. Residents have also been invited to host a small seismic sensor in their gardens, contributing to the data we'll collect.



Watch our video: Hear from Paul Bushnell (Deep Geothermal Project Director, University of York) and Mark Rees (Operations Director, Echo Geo), and explore our seismic survey webpage for more info.

Visit: tinyurl.com/UoY-seismic-survey

Looking ahead: The main seismic survey is running from the end of October to mid-November. Visit our seismic survey web pages to explore the details.

In the spotlight: Royal Academy of Engineering

Deep geothermal energy: a renewable option for the UK?

The latest article from the Royal Academy of Engineering's Ingenia magazine, written by Lee Williams, explores the potential of deep geothermal energy to play a key role in the UK's renewable future.

The feature includes insights from Paul Bushnell, Project Director of our Deep Geothermal Project, who discusses how this exciting initiative is helping to pave the way toward a more sustainable energy landscape.

Read the full article: tinyurl.com/deep-geothermal-article



EXPLORING GEOTHERMAL FOR YORK ENVIRONMENT FESTIVAL

We hosted a range of geothermal events as part of York Environment Festival and World Geothermal Energy Day from 15 to 17 October. Throughout the week, our geothermal team hosted interactive drop-in sessions at Tang Hall library, York Explore Library, and on our own campus, plus an evening public lecture exploring geothermal energy. These events saw 200 people across three days, and it was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm for geothermal energy and its potential for York's sustainable future.

The events gave visitors the chance to learn more about geothermal energy, ask questions about the project and the upcoming seismic survey. We also offered interactive geothermal activities on loan from the British Geological Survey, including building your own sensor, geothermal quizzes and geological maps to help understand the ground beneath our feet. Thank you to everyone who came along!



Scan to read the full story or visit the link below:

tinyurl.com/oct-geothermal-events



WORLD GEOTHERMAL DAY PUBLIC LECTURE: YORK'S GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION

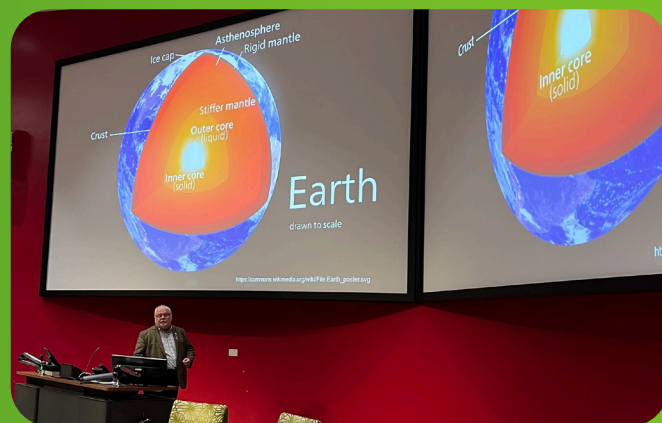
As part of World Geothermal Day on 17 October, we organised an evening public lecture in the Piazza Lecture Theatre on Campus East. Attended by over 80 people, this talk brought together experts to explore how geothermal energy works, why the UK has untapped potential, and what it means for the University of York's own deep geothermal project.

Professor Jon Gluyas from Durham University led the first part of the lecture, who shared insights into the science behind geothermal energy. We also heard from Paul Bushnell, Project Lead for our own geothermal initiative, who spoke about York's pioneering efforts to harness heat from beneath our feet. The event concluded with a Q&A session, giving the public a chance to put questions directly to the experts.

We were delighted to welcome Rachael Maskell MP (York Central) who attended the lecture, visited our exhibition in the Ron Cooke Hub, and shared her support for the project.

"I really enjoyed visiting the Geothermal drop in and learning about York's new heating source and how this *ground breaking project provides sustainability and opportunity for our city*. Drawing on the earth's natural heat, the first phase of the project aims to heat university buildings, with *the hope that it could have wider use* in the future."

Rachael Maskell MP



Speaker profile: Professor Jon Gluyas

We welcomed Professor Jon Gluyas as our guest speaker, who helped us understand the concept of geothermal energy. Jon is a geologist with experience in both industry and academia, specialising in fluid-rock interaction across geothermal energy, carbon storage, natural hydrogen and helium exploration and environmental impacts such as induced seismicity. He holds the Chair in Geoenergy, Carbon Capture and Storage at Durham University and is President of the Geological Society.

Previously, Jon served as Director of the Durham Energy Institute, Dean of Knowledge Exchange and Head of Earth Sciences. He founded the UK National Geothermal Centre in 2024 and chaired the development of the UK CCS Research Centre in 2011-12. Jon has also chaired the British Geological Survey and led both the Geoenergy Exploration Society of Great Britain and the Earth Science Teachers Association. Jon has founded 15 companies in energy and Earth observation and has published over 200 peer-reviewed papers and five books.



Missed the talk? Scan the QR code to watch it on YouTube or find the link via our news story:

tinyurl.com/oct-geothermal-events