



THE ASSOCIATION  
FOR **GEOGRAPHIC**  
**INFORMATION**

**YEAR  
IN  
REVIEW** **20  
22**



**Environmental Statement;**

by producing this report in a digital only format, with additional detail online, we are aiming to minimise, our environmental impact.

Feel to share this link <https://members.agi.org.uk/agi-review/> with colleagues and please think twice before printing a copy.



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# About the AGI

The Association for Geographic Information (AGI) is the UK's geospatial membership organisation; leading, connecting and developing a community of members who use and benefit from geographic information.

An independent and impartial organisation representing the UK geospatial sector, the AGI works with members and the wider community, to successfully influence government policy, deliver the highest quality of education and provide a lead for best practice across the industry.

*Our mission is to nurture, create and support a thriving UK Geospatial Community, actively supporting a sustainable future and we aim to achieve this through the three pillars that govern our activities and intentions;*

- nurture and connect active GI communities
- support career and skills development for GI Professionals
- provide thought leadership to inspire future generations

Established in 1989, members of the AGI enjoy unrivalled networking opportunities, a framework to learn new skills and the support to progress professional development and there are many ways to get involved and different levels of engagement;

- **Individual Network Member;** free membership for anyone
- **Individual Professional Member;** paid membership for individuals providing additional career, networking and business development benefits
- **Organisational Associate Member;** membership for organisations that includes professional membership for employees and promotional benefits
- **Organisational Partner Member;** premium membership for organisations that includes thought leadership, professional membership, promotions, sponsorship and additional benefits



# A word from the Chair & Vice Chair



Charles Darwin is attributed as saying, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent; it is the ones that are most adaptable to change." and for me this comes close to summing up my first year as AGI Chair.

I also think this is a powerful and even apt quote when reflecting on changes in the geospatial sector. Geospatial technology and the data that drives it is now an indisputable, albeit sometimes hidden, part of all our lives and it is adapting to change at an astonishing pace. Creative minds around the globe are leveraging the power of geography to transform sectors, achieve goals, push boundaries and limits and we are continuously weaving the power of geographic information and geographic thinking into all that we do as societies.

2022 has been another year of transformation for the AGI as we continue to adapt to changes, both of our own making and those impacted upon us by external influences and events. We have introduced and embedded a new membership model, including for the first time a free, entry level option, which has led to a significant and hopefully sustainable expansion of our community. We have also welcomed more Associate members with a return of lapsed members and members completely new to the geospatial space.

To support this expanding membership, we have set up more action working groups, strengthening our work on skills and education, sustainability, and diversity, equality and inclusion, and we have of course embraced a return to face-to-face events – but more on these topics to come!

We have continued to improve our back-office practices, ensuring a smoother more responsive customer experience, and we are working on a package of visible and back-end enhancements to our website and membership portal. We have also improved the frequency and quality of communications to you, making sure as members you have access to the information you need and want and communicating our achievements and aspirations to the wider industry.

Holding the position of Chair and supporting the AGI through a period of immense change has been an enormous privilege and I am proud of all that the Council, National Groups, Working Groups and Secretariat has already achieved. I am also excited to continue to work with this collective to ensure that 2023 promises to be another exciting year.

Looking forward, we will continue to deliver first-class thought leadership events across the UK and we are planning more virtual webinars. We are also truly excited to announce a reinstatement of the AGI Annual Awards, celebrating all that is excellent in the geospatial sector, and the formation of an AGI Past Chairs Network, a strategic advisory committee to help us navigate many more years of change!

Adam Burke, AGI Chair



I am proud to be taking up the appointment of Vice Chair and look forward to helping advance the offerings and exposure of the AGI and its influence in the geospatial community. During my year as Communications Lead, I had a front row seat to observe and interact with our enthusiastic and highly valued membership base, which we look to expand, whilst improving the benefits of membership to both professionals and organisations.

George Firth, AGI Vice Chair

# ...meet the team!



**Adam Burke, Chair**

Associate Head of Geospatial Service  
NHS South Central and West



**George Firth, Vice Chair**

Senior GIS Consultant  
Tetra Tech



**Morgan Commins, Hon. Secretary**

Senior Data Architect  
Ordnance Survey



**Alan Moore, Treasurer**

Head of Geospatial Services  
Idox PLC



**Denise McKenzie, Past Chair**

Community & Ethics Partner  
PLACE



**Stuart Tosney, Membership Lead**

Associate Director, Land Survey  
Point 2 Surveyors Ltd



**Richard Flemmings, Communications Lead**

Partner and CEO  
Map impact



**Pam Whitham AGI Cymru Representative**

Strategic Development Manager  
Ordnance Survey



**Katherine Smyth**

NIMA Support Officer  
Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland



**James Cutler**

Founder and Geospatial Strategist  
Locatum



**Richard Duffield**

Head of Customer Insights  
Geoplace LLP



**Fergus Craig**

Account Manager  
L3Harris Geospatial



**Ian Maxfield**

Associate Director of Geographic  
Services, NHS South Central & West



**Anne Robertson**

Head of Services & User Engagement  
EDINA, The University of Edinburgh



**Esther Ogbu**

Project Manager  
Esri UK



**John Seabourn**

Chief Digital & Information Officer  
North Sea Transition Authority



**Sam Tizzard**

GIS & Data Manager  
London Borough of Harrow



**Mark Stileman**

Senior Product Manager  
Ordnance Survey

# GeoCom 22

The first in-person AGI annual conference in 3 years attracted more than 260 registered delegates with a world-class line up of speakers and a theme of sustainability, described as a 'Netflix binge for geo-nerds', to the Royal Geographical Society headquarters in London.

I had the pleasure of welcoming the packed audience to the event and introducing the first speaker Tom Harris, Partner and ESG Digital, Data and Analytics Leader at Deloitte who explored how geospatial data can help how organisations impact sustainability. He exposed the juxtaposition of 'dirty' mining versus the requirement for 'clean' metals before championing the role of maps to tell emotive stories and drive change.

Mark Tabor, Principal Consultant at Ordnance Survey, showcased the agencies 230-year history of innovation and how new solutions, such as OS VeriEarth, a spatial service for restoration and carbon offsets, are being developed. Steve Ramage, Chief Engagement Officer for the Group on Earth Observations stunned with the revelation the \$80 million Green Climate Fund has no mandate for earth observation before showcasing the role of geo in life-saving projects and concluding that 'when geo does something it does it with intent'.

After coffee, and the first chance to network with event sponsors Esri UK, Ordnance Survey, Geospatial Commission, Carto, Cadcorp, Geoplace, Verisk and Cadline, the morning continued with Claire Pini and James Hemingway from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) introducing the National Energy Efficiency Data framework (NEED). A property level dataset NEED is designed to provide insights into energy use and has the potential to identify buildings in scope for policies and understand the impact of installing measures.



Henry Odbert, Senior Scientist at the Met Office, made the audience think about how all modes of transport are affected by weather and how new types of transport, such as Autonomous Vehicles, simply have different vulnerabilities before exploring how spatial and temporal data can be used to inform strategic decision making for safe, efficient and sustainable transport.

After lunch, again more opportunities for networking and much needed sustenance, the afternoon kicked-off with a panel style session chaired by Wayne Newton of Geovation, the start-up accelerator programme with guests Christopher Jackson of Advanced Infrastructure and Chris Hildray of Proxy Address. With a common theme of vulnerabilities, Christopher showcased a digital twin of the UK energy system and how this is being informing EV infrastructure planning, whilst Chris revealed how donated or loaned 'addresses' are giving homeless people a hand-up not a hand-out.



# Sustainability in a Changing World

The second panel was chaired by Emma Chown of the AGI's Early Careers Network (ECN). Joined by Jody Shaw of Arcadis and Esther Ogbu of Esri UK, Emma presented the initial findings from the AGI / RGS survey which looked at the influences, beyond pay, on career decisions.

Back to more formal proceedings and Owen Lauder of Esri UK, explored how businesses can use the lens of geography to create sustainable supply chains before our second Christopher Jackson, this time Director of Sustainable Geoscience at Jacobs, posed the question can geology save the world? The answer was of course yes! Christopher championed the role of geo in meeting societies challenges and struck a chord with the audience by declaring 'everyone needs a geoscientist for a friend'.

Past AGI Chair and Community and Ethics Partner at PLACE Denise McKenzie, closed the proceedings thanking the team that made the day the success that it was before urging the audience to get more involved with the AGI and to join them at the pub where I understand discussions went on well into the evening!

Adam Burke, AGI Chair



To watch the post event video, kindly produced by Ordnance Survey, highlighting the power of networking and the value of fact to face events please visit <https://www.agi.org.uk/>



# AGI Regional & Working Groups

Whilst we embraced face-to-face events such as GeoCom 2022, online events continued to play a valuable part in our outreach, education and professional development programmes. AGI hosted a number of well received webinars and we plan to continue these events in 2023.

Our National and Working Groups also actively hosted a mix of online gatherings and face to face events;



The AGI Northern Ireland annual conference was once again held virtually on the 23rd June under the theme 'Geographic Information in Support of a Better World'. Covering topics such as the use of GIS to support sustainable spatial infrastructure, public health, the environment and technical innovations.

2023 will see a return to face-to-face event in Northern Ireland and plans are already underway for an in-person annual conference which will take place on the 22nd June with a theme of 'GI for the Future'.

Further details of this and other NI events are available from <https://members.agi.org.uk/agi-northern-ireland/>



During a year which saw a focus on developing geography as a profession and building strong relationships with organisations from industry, government and academia, AGI Cymru held its first in-person event in two years with over 60 members of the Welsh geospatial community coming together to consider and discuss the importance of the outdoors on health and well-being. Glyn Jones, Chief Digital Officer at Welsh Government provided the keynote whilst event sponsors, such as CGI, covered topics such as the Cambrian Way, Earth Observation and The National Forest.

Looking forward to 2023 AGI Cymru is keen to continue to provide social and networking events including its Annual Conference, which will take place on the 5th October under the theme 'Climate Change'.

Further information and details of forthcoming webinars is available from <https://members.agi.org.uk/agi-cymru/>



AGI Scotland continues to build and strengthen its network of partnerships. It is working with Location Data Scotland, a network integrator programme funded by the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and the Geospatial Commission, the Scottish Government on the broader geospatial roadmap and the likes of Scotland IS, the member body for the digital and technology industry in Scotland.

Whilst the annual event was held virtually in 2022, over 2 days attracting 200 registered delegates with the topic of Global to Local, 2023 will see a return to physical meetings with the annual conference taking place on the 23rd February at COSLA Headquarters in Edinburgh. The theme 'Scotland's Resilience – the Geospatial Future' will feature speakers from NHS Scotland, Ordnance Survey, National Records of Scotland and Farrpoint.

For further information and to secure your place at this event visit <https://members.agi.org.uk/agi-scotland/>

## Early Careers Network

The Early Careers Network (ECN) group has been very busy during 2022 developing strategy, honing its areas of interest and developing its social media presence and reach. The group delivered a number of webinars throughout the year culminating in a speed networking and review of the year in December, and it is currently working on a programme for 2023.

One of the highlights of 2022 for the ECN, and those lucky enough to be present, was its session at GeoCom. Centred around a survey run in collaboration with RGS-IBG, the discussion focussed on the values that are important to early career professionals in the geo sector, aside from pay. A full report on the survey findings is being worked on and will be published soon.

Link to ECN: <https://members.agi.org.uk/agi-early-careers-network/>

## Education & Skills Action Working Group

A new group for the AGI, the Education and Skills Working Group has used 2022 to form a diverse and inclusive group, representing a broad spectrum of organisations including AGI Council, ECN, national groups, Geospatial Commission, RGS-IBG and Ordnance Survey. One of the group's first activities was a Skills Survey which set out to address the question 'Is there a skills recruitment issue within the geospatial profession?'. The survey closed on 12th December and the results are currently being analysed with a report due for publication in due course.

2023 will see another major project commencing with the creation and collation of a Geospatial Profession Skills Register.

Further information will be posted at:

<https://members.agi.org.uk/agi-education-and-skills/>



## Standards Working Group

The Standards Working Group were delighted to support the formation of the UK Geospatial Data Standards Register. UK Gemini, maintained and made available free of charge by the AGI, is one of the first to be adopted to this register having been part of central government guidance for more than ten years as a core component of the UK's INSPIRE infrastructure.

To support this move, the Standards Working Group held a hugely successful webinar on 'Geospatial Data Standards – what they are and why they matter' with over 100 attendees and speakers from OGC, OS and BSI, IST36.

We would also like to thank Peter Parslow who is standing down as the Chair of the GEMINI Working Group and welcome Jo Cook who is taking over.

Link to Standards Working Group:

<https://members.agi.org.uk/agi-uk-gemini/>

# Working in Partnership

In order to achieve our mission to nurture, create and support a thriving UK Geospatial Community, we work alongside other membership organisations and trade associations including;

- British Computer Society (BCS)
- Geospatial Commission
- Government Geography Profession
- Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES)
- Knowledge Transfer Network (UKN)
- Royal Geographical Society (RGS with IBG)
- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
- Scotland IS
- Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (SSSI)
- TECH UK and UK GeoForum.

Whilst all of these relationships may not be formalised, they do underpin a large number of initiatives and outreach programmes for the geospatial community.

Specifically, during 2022 we supported the Geospatial Commission hosting a roundtable to discuss opportunities for geospatial to support the build of an electric vehicle chargepoint network that works for everyone, everywhere.

The findings of this have now been used to support the Geospatial Commission's policy development which has culminated with the publication of 'Getting to the Point: Accelerating EV chargepoint rollout through geospatial data'.



The AGI also partnered with the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES) to present at the GEO Business conference. Under the title 'Aligning Competencies – Cross Sector Collaboration to Support Geospatial Professionals' two years of collaboration to develop a GIS competency framework was showcased, demonstrating how alignment can have a positive impact in creating dynamic skills within an industry.

The target audience for this session was those working, or wishing to work, in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) sector, with a GIS or geospatial focus, however it is hoped this example of collaboration will provide a benchmark for future collaboration and integrated thinking with other organisations regarding competencies and professional development.

In order to spark discussion and forge relationships on these topics we have also worked with the RGS with IBG to undertake a number of surveys addressing issues including the Education and Skills Working Group Survey 'Is there a skills recruitment issue within the geospatial profession?' and the RGS's own survey. Reports and analysis on the outcomes of both of these will be published in 2023.



# AGI Partner & Associate Members

The work of the AGI, as outlined in this report, would not be possible without the valuable support provided by our Partner and Associate Members.

We would therefore like to extend special thanks to our Partner Members Esri UK, Land and Property Services, Land Registry and Ordnance Survey, who offer additional support, above and beyond the terms of membership, including staff to support in person events, marketing resources and strategic planning.



During 2022 we also welcomed a number of new Associate Members, bringing the total number of organisations we support with a range of benefits to more than sixty;

- 1Spatial
- Astun Technology
- Atkins
- Bluesky International
- British Geological Survey
- Cadcorp
- Cadline
- Canal & River Trust
- CDR Group
- CGI
- City of London Corporation
- Coal Authority
- Crown Estate, London
- Crown Estate Scotland
- Cyclomedia
- DAERA - Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs NI
- DEFRA - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Digital Directorate, Scottish Government
- EDINA - University Of Edinburgh
- emapsite
- ersg
- Europa Technologies
- Forestry Commission
- Geodata - University of Southampton
- GeoPlace
- GIS247
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Idox Group
- Improvement Service
- Informed Solutions
- Kinect Recruitment
- L3Harris Geospatial
- Landmark Information Group
- MapAction
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Natural Resources Wales
- NatureScot
- Neath Port Talbot Council
- NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit
- North Sea Transition Authority
- Northern Ireland Electricity Networks
- OceanWise
- RB Geomatics
- Registers of Scotland
- Rigour Survey
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Forestry
- SpyroSoft
- Transport for London
- UK Hydrographic Office
- UK Research and Innovation
- Ulster University
- University of Warwick
- Verisk 3D Visual Intelligence
- Welsh Government
- Woodland Trust
- York St John University



# 2023 Dates for your Diary

Here are just some of the events that the AGI and its membership will be organising and attending in 2023:

## **AGI Scotland Annual Conference**

'Scotland's Resilience – the Geospatial Future'  
Cosla Headquarters, Edinburgh  
23rd February 2023

## **GEO Business**

ExCel London  
17-18th May 2023

## **Ordnance Survey PSGA Member Events**

21st March 2023, Cardiff  
23rd March 2023, Edinburgh  
26th April 2023, Leeds

## **AGI Northern Ireland**

Annual Conference 'GI for the Future'  
22nd June 2023

## **Esri UK Annual Conference**

QEII Conference Centre, London  
16th May 2023

## **AGI Geo Cymru Conference**

Annual Conference 'Climate Change'  
Glamorgan County Cricket Club at Sophia Gardens  
10th October 2023

# Save The Date #GeoCom23 Tuesday 5th December 2023



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