

# Geohazards in Engineering Geology

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# **Geohazards in Engineering Geology**

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## Preface

Geohazards was the theme of the 31st annual conference of the Engineering Group of the Geological Society, which was held at the University of Coventry from 10 to 14 September 1995. The theme was chosen as it was mid-way through the United Nations designated International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). It seemed appropriate to hold a conference on the recognition of geohazards and what measures are being used for their reduction.

The conference itself attracted a wide range of papers on geohazards from all over the world, dealing with the obvious and spectacular such as volcanic eruptions, to the more insidious 'non-spectacular', but of far greater economic importance, such as soil mineralogy. With regard to volcanic geohazards we are grateful for Dr Bill McGuire who, coming from 'outside' engineering geology, gave a presentation on volcanic hazards, which helped to provide a perspective to the conference. The scope of geohazards is large and this volume gives a good indication of this, while not claiming to be totally comprehensive. The papers focus predominantly on natural geohazards, however consideration has been given in Section 7 to geohazards associated with contaminated land. In the paper by Bell *et al.* contaminated land is natural in the sense that is the consequence of exploitation of natural resources.

To the material presented at the 1995 conference additional papers have been added from eminent academics and practitioners in respective areas of geohazards to provide an authoritative volume on the characterization and mitigation of geohazards.

As we move towards the next decade and millennium there is no doubt that geohazards will continue to exact a toll on loss of life, livelihood and property. However, research into mitigation in this volume is a small but significant contribution to help the reduction of natural hazards, by increasing our understanding of the engineering geology of the natural and built world.

The compilation of this volume has been a lengthy task, which was started by Steve Penn who convened the conference at the University of Coventry. We thank the other committee members who, largely working behind the scenes, made the conference a success. Finally we are fortunate in having David Ogden of the Geological Society Publishing House for advice and guidance and for bringing the whole volume together both literally and metaphorically.

Julian Maund  
Wellington  
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June 1998

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