



**ESTA's 50th Anniversary Course and Conference, Keele University:
Geoscience Education and Geoconversation,
29th September – 1st October 2017**

**Introduction by Ian Stimpson,
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ESTA is coming home to Keele University to celebrate its golden anniversary. ESTA's inaugural meeting, then as the Association of Teachers of Geology, was held at Keele in September 1967. It returns to Keele in 2017 with the same ethos that it started with 50 years ago, focussing on the teaching and learning of geology at all levels, primary, secondary and the transition to university, and just like 1967, we will be offering field excursions to local geological sites.

In the heart of the English countryside, but in easy reach of the major transport routes of the M6 and the West Coast Mainline, Keele's campus has been ranked number one university in the world for its green setting and campus infrastructure in a global sustainability league table. In the National Student Survey, Keele has been number one university for student satisfaction three years running and, for the last two years Geology at Keele has had 100% student satisfaction.

The School of Geography, Geology and the Environment looks forward to welcoming you to the 50th Anniversary ESTA conference. The conference has twin themes of education and geoconservation. Geoscience education is at the core to what we all do, whether at primary, secondary or, indeed, higher education. ESTA's anniversary gives us the opportunity to both celebrate the last fifty years of geoscience education and look forward to, and plan for, the next fifty.

With imminent changes to the geology A-level curriculum, many of the talks and workshops will focus on how these changes will affect you and provide updates on areas such as plate tectonics, planetary geology, engineering geology, maths in geology, fieldwork and the new specified practicals. We will also host Chris King's ever popular "Bring and Share" Session.

Saturday evening sees the 50th Anniversary Conference Dinner in the stately setting of our 19th century mansion house, Keele Hall.

At the heart of geology is the concept of geodiversity, the natural range of geological, geomorphological, soil and hydrological features including their assemblages, structures, systems and contribution to landscapes. The endeavour of trying to conserve this geodiversity is geoconservation, protecting and enhancing geology and landscapes. Geoconservation work not only maintains SSSI and LoGS sites for school and other use but also offers practical opportunities for volunteering and engaging future generations of geology students. One of the field visits to the Staffordshire Peak District will discuss potential geoconservation aspects in field teaching as well as looking at the geology. GeoconservationUK, in conjunction with ESTA, developed "Earth Science On-Site – ESO-S", publishing examples of high quality Earth Science field teaching activities for schools. These are intended as exemplars and may be adapted by teachers for use at other sites. A couple of local these ESOS sites will be visited with field visits. David Thompson's ESTA legacy will also be celebrated with a re-running of his Darwin Trail visit by Chris King.

We look forward to welcoming you home to Keele in September.

**For details and registration documents refer to the ESTA website:
<http://www.esta-uk.net/conference.htm>.**