



Environment
Agency

Geoscience careers
in the Environment Agency



create a
better place

We are the Environment Agency. It's our job to look after your environment and make it a **better place** for you, and for future generations.

Your environment is the air you breathe, the water you drink and the ground you walk on. Working with business, Government and society as a whole, we are making your environment cleaner and healthier.

The Environment Agency. Out there, making your environment a **better place**.

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welcome

All our staff have a vital role to play in helping **create a better place**. We can offer you excellent career opportunities within one of the country's leading environmental organisations.

The following booklet introduces you to the many varied geoscience career opportunities within the Environment Agency. We look forward to welcoming you in the future.

Make your choice. Make a difference.



Technical officers are an integral part of the operational teams. They have to make sound decisions every day and are often called upon to present reasoned arguments in complex regulatory and environmental management situations.

“I joined the Environment Agency after six years with the Geological Survey of Ireland. In my team, each person is responsible for a particular river catchment. This is extremely satisfying, as I can build up a picture of the natural system. Groundwater is a wonderful area of work, as you have to think about interactions with all other parts of the environment. This requires people from a wide range of disciplines to work together.”

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Ruth Buckley Technical officer

career profile

What does the Environment Agency do?

We are the leading public body protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales.

Life is certainly never dull as our work is extremely varied and diverse. It ranges from monitoring and clean-up operations locally on a day-to-day-basis, right through to reducing major industries' impact on the environment and influencing Government policy.



We work in the following main areas:

Water resources:

We work to make sure water resources are used properly. We check resources and give out abstraction licences.

Water quality:

It is our job to maintain the quality of fresh, marine, surface and groundwater. We try to prevent and reduce the risk of water pollution.

Recreation:

We encourage people to use inland and coastal waters and the surrounding areas for a range of leisure activities.

Air quality:

We aim to reduce industry's impact on the environment by regulating emissions from large and complex industrial processes.

Land quality:

We work to stop land becoming polluted. We help to make it safe if it is contaminated.

Conservation:

We have an important role in conserving and protecting our plant and wildlife, particularly along rivers and in wetlands.

Flooding:

Around 5 million people, in 2 million properties, live in flood risk areas in England and Wales. We warn people about the risk of flooding, and help in reducing the likelihood of flooding from rivers and the sea.

Fisheries:

We are committed to maintaining, improving and developing salmon and freshwater fisheries. We also want to increase the number of people who go fishing.

Navigation:

We are one of the major navigation authorities in charge of inland rivers, estuaries and harbours in England and Wales.

Waste:

We regulate how waste is disposed of by giving out licences. We advise on how to dispose of and reduce waste.

Geoscience in the Environment Agency

Geoscientists follow paths of exploration and discovery to find solutions to some of the world's most challenging problems.

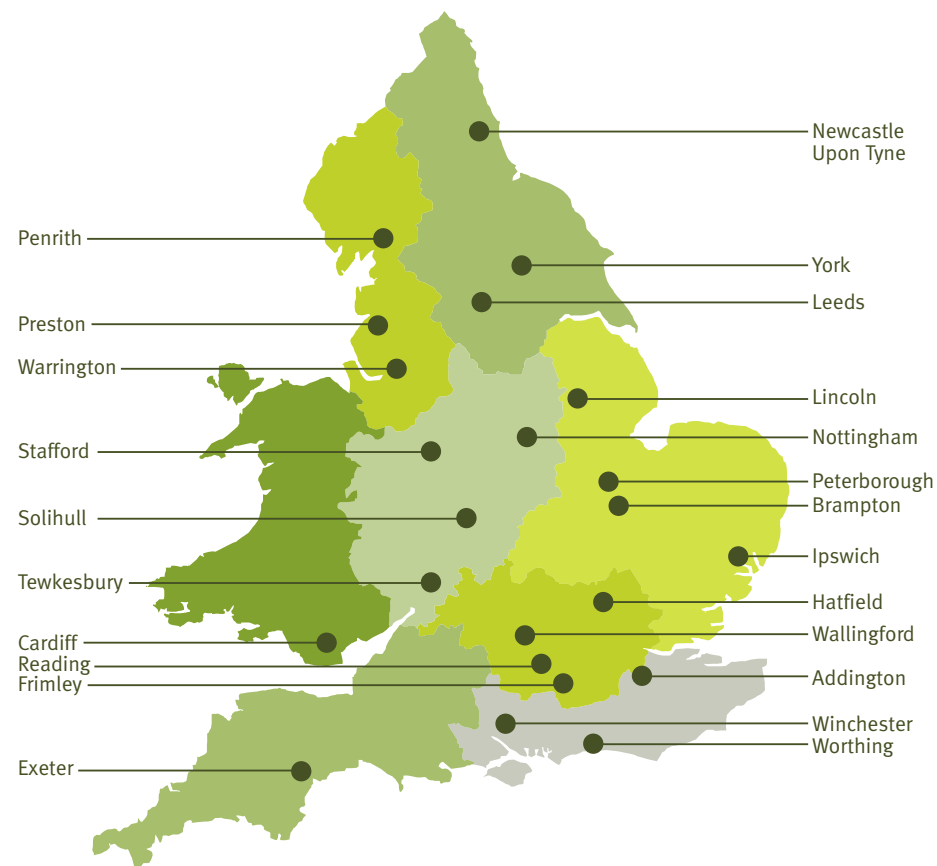
Geoscientists are vital to the work of the Environment Agency. We rely on their highly specialised skills to provide the main technical expertise for four of our key areas of work: water resources, water quality, waste and land quality.

Of the 12,600 people we employ, around 300 are geoscientists. They represent a core group of trained experts whose input and influence lie at the heart of the vital work we carry out every day.

Our geoscientists include hydrogeologists, geotechnical engineers, contaminated land specialists and engineering geologists.

The Environment Agency covers all of England and Wales, but our Geoscientists operate out of the locations shown on the opposite page. Depending on your particular area of expertise, you could follow a range of different career paths. Whether it's a hands on role working in an operational team at the local level, or as a strategic thinker, developing policy, influencing Government and helping to shape European thinking, a career in the Environment Agency will certainly make a difference to your life and to others.

our office locations





Michael joined the Environment Agency from a consultancy background. He has held a number of roles, including three years as an Area Contaminated Land Officer, before joining the Strategic Permitting Group where he worked as a land quality specialist. Michael now works in the Capital Projects team.

“I now work nationally managing a number of Part IIA projects and provide advice and guidance to area specialists. The variability of the types of project, the opportunity to travel the country passing on my experience makes this an exciting and highly fulfilling position.”

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Michael Hughes Senior Project Manager (Capital Projects)

career profile



Steve has a degree in Environmental Geology and his career started in Local Government, as a landfill engineer and specialist in landfill gas control. Steve's role as a geotechnical officer includes technical assessment of engineering designs and pollution control technologies, which all have to meet the stringent standards of the Landfill Regulations.

“The challenging part of the job is when there is a major incident, such as a landfill gas leak, a landslide, water pollution or a major crisis such as ‘Foot and Mouth’. My role then is to act as ‘trouble shooter’, ensuring that prompt action is taken to protect the environment and the public. All my knowledge, experience and persuasive skills then come into play.”

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Steve Roberts Geotechnical Officer (Groundwater & Contaminated Land)

career profile

Entry requirements

We take pride in our professionals and offer opportunities for geoscientists at all stages of their career. There are three possible levels of entry depending on qualifications and experience:

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Technical Officer Level 2 | A degree in a relevant subject such as Applied Environmental Sciences, Earth Sciences or an equivalent BTEC/HNC. Relevant voluntary or vocational work is also desirable. |
| Technical Officer Level 1 | A postgraduate qualification in a relevant subject such as Hydrogeology, Geochemistry, Geotechnics, selected Environmental Science or Contaminated Land. Some relevant experience is also essential. |
| Technical Specialist | A postgraduate qualification in a relevant subject and significant experience relevant to the job post e.g. in Contaminated Land or Groundwater Protection. |

Benefits package

As you'd expect from an organisation of our size and reputation, we have an attractive and competitive benefits package to reflect the value we place on recruiting a high standard of quality people.

- Generous holidays – from 25 to 30 days (plus public holidays) depending on grade and experience.
- Government-backed pension scheme.
- Flexible working arrangements (flexi-time, job sharing and part-time) to achieve a sensible balance between work and home.
- Generous maternity and paternity provision.
- Ongoing training and professional development.

Geoscience shaping the future

“Geoscientists are at the heart of our organisation.”

Geoscience is becoming more and more important for us, as we work to implement high-profile legislation such as the Water Act 2003 and the EC Water Framework Directive. Our geoscientists played key roles in shaping and drafting this legislation. Geoscientists are at the heart of our organisation, reaching the top levels of management and technical specialities.

Interested?

If you're interested in joining us, please send us your CV letting us know which region/office you're interested in to: geoscience.recruitment@environment-agency.gov.uk

We will keep your details on file for six months from the date you respond, passing your information to Recruiting Managers as and when vacancies arise. When a relevant vacancy arises we will be in touch to see if you're still keen to join us.

If you find a job in the meantime, we'd be grateful if you could email us on the above address to let us know so we can make sure our information is up-to-date.

You can also find out more by visiting www.environment-agency.gov.uk/jobs



Becoming a team leader is a natural career progression for geoscientists in the Environment Agency.

“There comes a point in your career when you want to influence the work you and your colleagues do, the type of projects you’re involved in, and the direction of the team. So after 10 years working as a hydrogeologist, I decided to pursue the position of team leader. Being a team leader allows me to remain involved in the technical work my team do, whilst having an opportunity to influence where best to use our resources.”

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Jeff Pacey Team Leader (Groundwater & Contaminated Land)

career profile



Chris joined the Severn Trent Water Authority, assessing planning applications and waste disposal license applications for the risk to groundwater quality, and looking after a groundwater quality monitoring network. As she gained experience, promotions followed, to team leader, and then via manager of the Midlands Regional Groundwater & Contaminated Land Section to an executive manager role in Head Office.

“My current role calls upon all the experience gained over the last 20 years, and I’m really glad I didn’t listen to my original careers advice, which was ‘female geologists can only do teaching’. One of my main aims is to raise the awareness of groundwater and geoscience issues across the Environment Agency and with the people we work with.”

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Chris Thomas Head of Business – Geoscience

career profile

**Would you like to find out more about us,
or about your environment?**

Then call us on

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