

## Brian Bell PhD



Brian was awarded his BSc in applied geology from the University of Strathclyde in 1980 and went on to undertake postgraduate research on the geological relationships of Palaeocene igneous rocks in the Eastern Red Hills Intrusive Centre on the Isle of Skye at Imperial College (London), receiving his PhD in 1982. He was awarded the Judd Prize from Imperial College for this piece of work.

In 1982 Brian became a member of the staff in the department of applied geology in the University of Strathclyde and, subsequently, after amalgamation (1989), the University of Glasgow, where he remained until resigning in 2020. His main teaching interests were igneous geology, geological map interpretation and fieldwork techniques, including the making of geological maps.

In the mid 1980s - mid 1990s Brian produced new geological maps for the British Geological Survey for the central part of Skye (Sheet 70 (1:50K): Minginish; Sheet 71W (1:50K): Broadford; and a special sheet at the scale of 1:25K for the Skye Central Complex). The geological mapping involved in this project occurred over several weeks each spring for 10 years.

From the mid-1990s through to 2020, Brian was involved with research funded by major energy companies, both “blue sky” (involving fieldwork in West and East Greenland, Argentina, and the USA) and applied exploration programmes, the latter resulting in the discovery of three major oil fields. He was awarded the Clough Medal by the Edinburgh Geological Society (2015-16).

Brian considers that he has been fortunate throughout his “career” to have had the opportunities outlined above and believes he never “worked for a living” but rather did the things he enjoyed and was paid to do them! As of 2020 he has undertaken the rewriting of a geological text on Skye and Raasay, with 50 excursions, to be published online in 2022. Brian continues to research and document aspects of the Palaeocene igneous rocks throughout the Inner Hebrides.

Brian joined the Geological Society of Glasgow in 1979 and served as president from 2012 to 2015. He was an editor of Scottish Journal of Geology for several years.