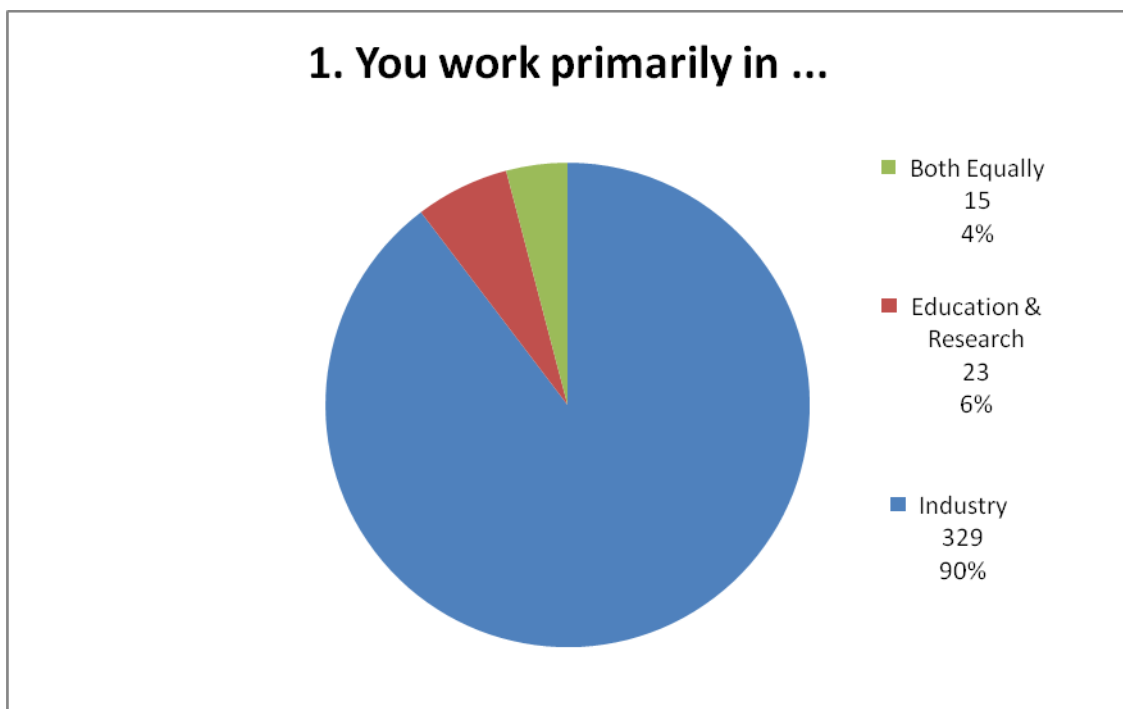


RESULTS OF SURVEY OF MEMBERS REGARDING THE BGS EDINBURGH CORE STORE

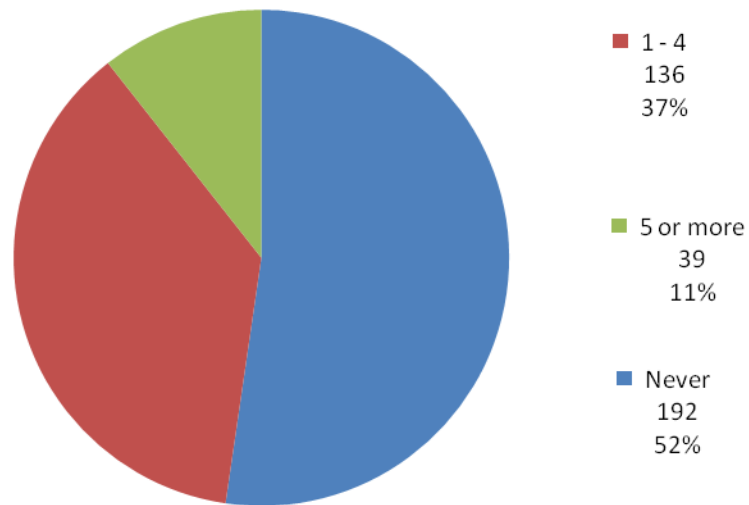
Over the past 6 months we have tried in the PESGB newsletter to air debate on the contentious subject of the future location and management of the nation's offshore core collection. Some deeply held views on the subject have been reflected in heated and passionate comment in the pages of our Newsletter, but until now we have not been truly sure of the views across the breadth of the membership. A survey conducted through the PESGB website has been conducted to ascertain this, and a summary of the results are presented here along with individual comments from our members.

The results are self-explanatory but given the contentious nature of the subject, we would encourage you to view them objectively, read them without implied criticism.

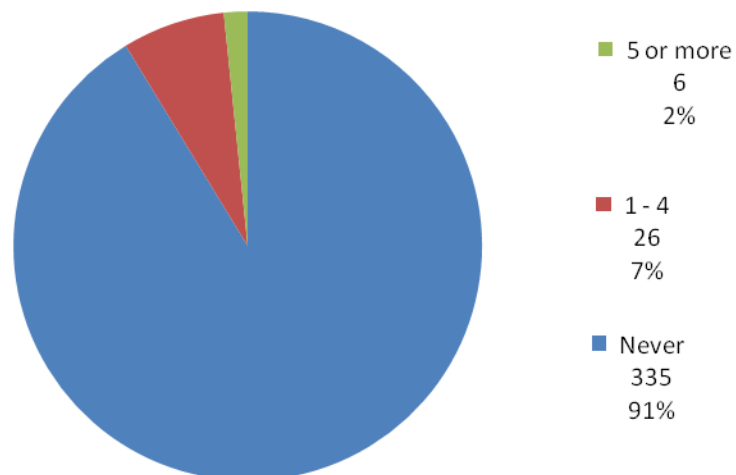
The President has discussed this whole issue in his extended President's Pages in the March Newsletter which are also pre-published here along with a letter from the BGS replying to previous correspondence



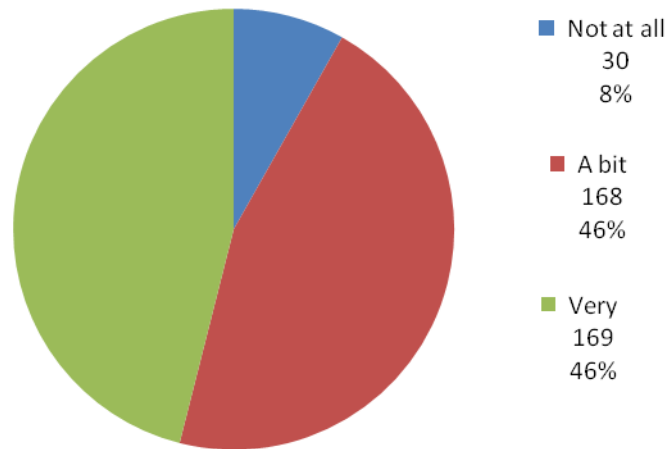
2. Over the last 5 years how many times have you used the Edinburgh Core Store?



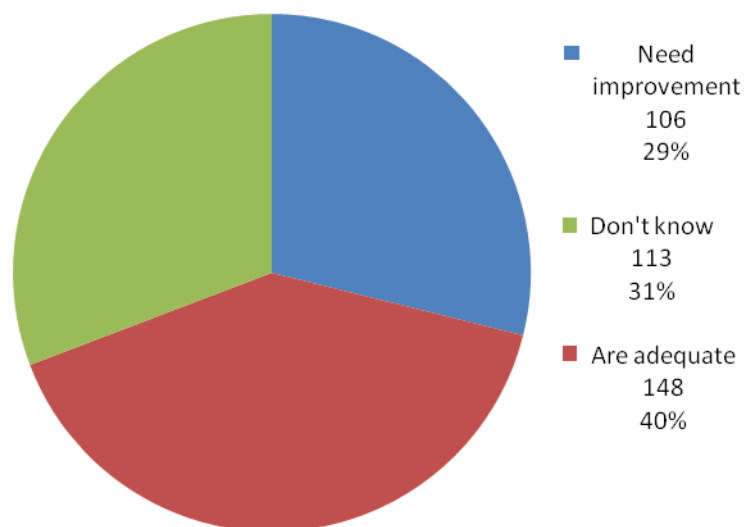
3. Over the last 5 years how many times have you used the Keyworth Core Store?



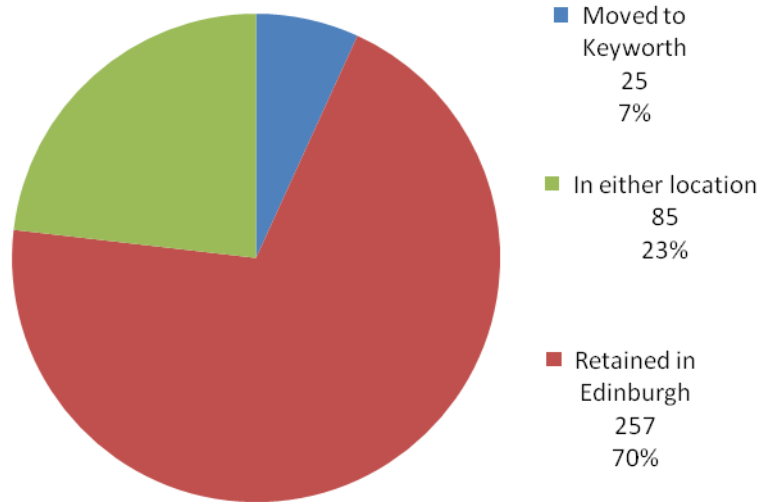
4. Are you familiar with the cases both for and against moving the Core Store from Edinburgh to Keyworth?



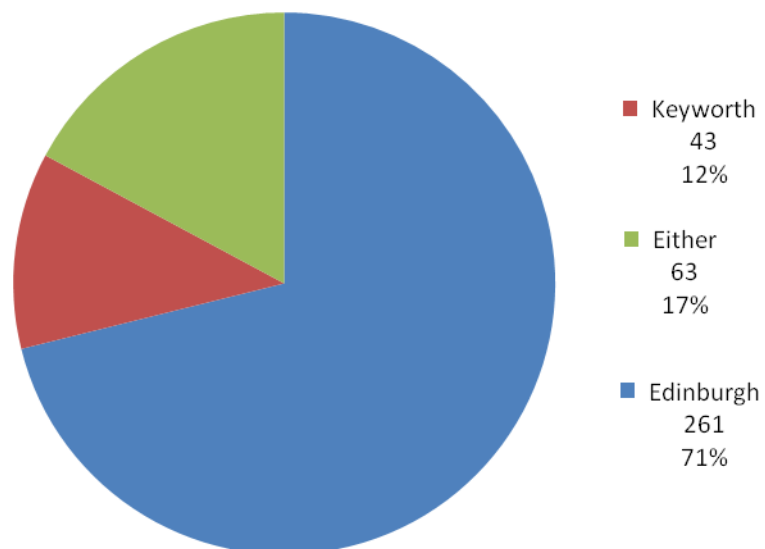
5. Do you think the current facilities provided at Edinburgh ...



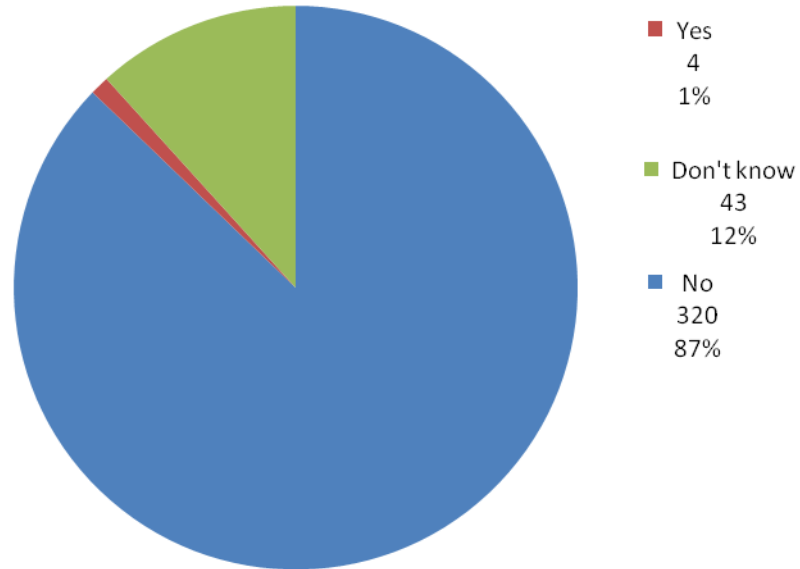
6. It will be most beneficial for your geoscience work if the Core Store is ...



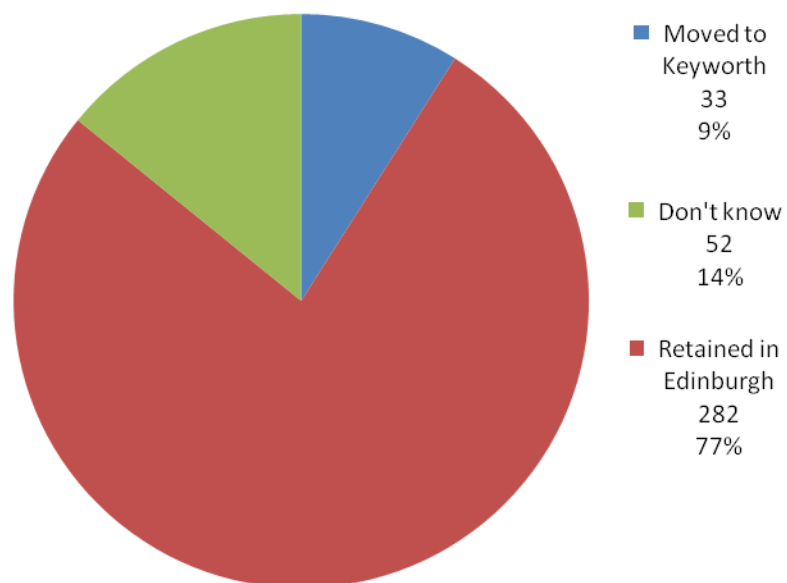
7. It is easier for you to travel to ...



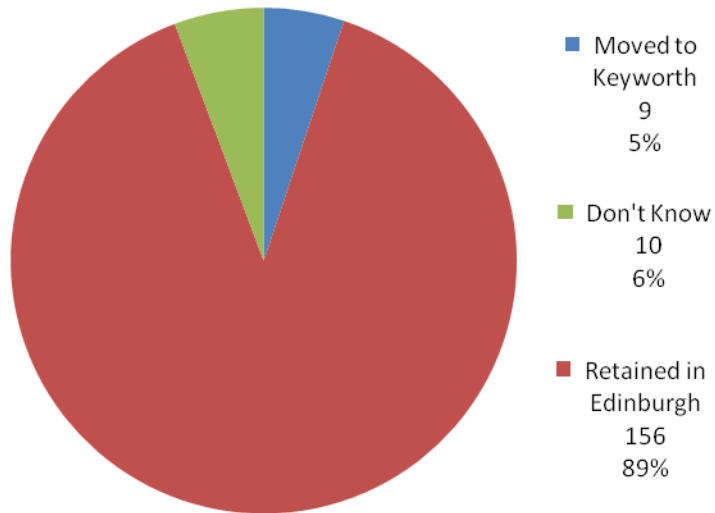
8. Did you have an opportunity to comment on this issue during the BGS Information Management Facilities Review carried out in 2009 by Tribal Group?



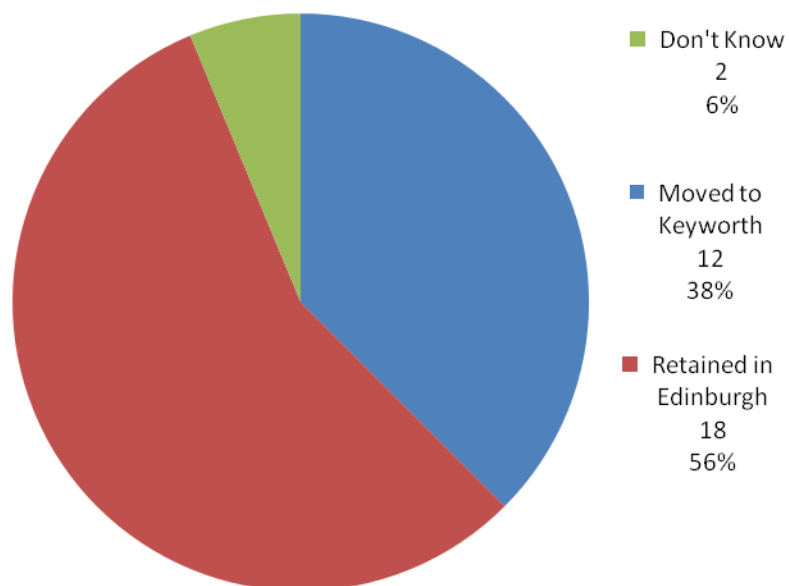
9. On balance you believe the core store should be ...



Of the 175 that use the Edinburgh core store, what was their answer to consultation question (9)?



Of the 32 that use the Keyworth core store, what was their answer to consultation question (9)?



Please add any additional comments or explanations (cont.)

By moving the core store you are GUARANTEED to loose valuable items. No matter how many promises are made, things will go missing.

Considering the majority of the British oil industry is located in Aberdeen it seems expedient to have the information close to that population of geoscientists. Whilst Keyworth is relatively easy to get to from London, it is almost impossible from Aberdeen without making any trip a major expedition. The BGS seem to have forgotten that the oil industry is a very large active proportion of the British geoscience community which makes a disproportionately large contribution to the UK Economy.

Core material is very susceptible to damage during any movement. Therefore this should be severely restricted. The core store location near Edinburgh is in convenient reach on Edinburgh international airport and railway network. The location of Aberdeen city as the largest centre of North Sea oil activity in Britain, and it's proximity to Edinburgh make the Edinburgh store a good location for the UK national core store. If the BGS move the core store to Keyworth, they will not be providing the industry, or the Country with a public service that will encourage good cooperation or alignment in the future. This conflict of view for the appropriate storage location of the UK national core store will affect and taint people's view of dealing the BGS in the future.

Core store also used for teaching in Edinburgh, for Undergraduate BSc (30/yr), and post graduate MSc (25/yr).Also used for PhD research training (5/re) and sample identification (4 people /yr)

Edinburgh can be readily accessed from either Aberdeen or London - the two centres for the oil & gas industry. Keyworth (never heard of it!) cannot. End of argument. A facility is situated where it best suits its users; it should not be situated on the basis of administrative convenience. No sensible commercial enterprise would consider this for one moment.

Edinburgh is a more familiar location for users of the core store facility, but more importantly to me, Edinburgh is more easily accessible from either Aberdeen or London due to better transport links. As a native of Nottinghamshire I can say that locating the core store to Keyworth will make using the store more expensive, time-consuming and onerous

Edinburgh is only really good for Edinburgh based academics - it's expensive to get to and expensive to stay there Moving to a modern store at Keyworth has a lot of advantages not least having everything in one place.

Even some professionals (Offshore) do not handle core properly, transport is a major risk to core integrity. Suggest vibration monitors are fitted to all lorries with incremental dashboard warning lights.

I would insist all core is frozen prior to and during transport. BGS will not of course agree to this so CT scan a selection of core before & after transport and scale up the findings to report on the damage to all core. Also, freeze a selection of core yourselves and report on findings before and after transport.

Increased carbon footprint of transporting core and future visits to Midlands is unacceptable. Note core will be unavailable for a period of time during the move, there will also be additional office downtime from visits.

Fairly neutral on the move. The current core store is quite adequate but is out on a limb compared to other BGS facilities. Keyworth is little if any further from East Midlands Airport than the current store is from Edinburgh Airport and is easier to access from the M1 coming from the south.

From discussion of the issue in the PESGB newsletter it seems as though the majority of core store "customers" have not been adequately consulted on the issue. It behoves the BGS to open consultation with this group before reconsidering proposal.

Given that this facility represents a key resource for the UK hydrocarbon industry, I find it almost inconceivable that BGS failed to consult more widely and solicit opinions from key user groups. To my knowledge, neither London or Aberdeen based petroleum geologists were consulted to any significant degree as part of this process. At last we have an attempt to obtain feedback from within the industry. Congratulations PESGB for initiating a process which BGS should have undertaken many months ago.

Given the state of public finances I think very careful consideration needs to be given as to whether this is good use of tax payers money...that is in the first instance. Secondly if it ain't broke why are we fixing it??

Has some neutral party done a cost/benefit analysis of the two cases to see which of the options makes most sense commercially? Also a good question to ask is the relative proximity of universities/place of HE who may wish to use the core data (with permission)for teaching purposes? Other factors to consider: Relative Access of the 2 sites (road, rail and air), relative parking facilities and provision for over night accommodation

Please add any additional comments or explanations (cont.)

I am appalled at the standard of the review process, which has failed to engage the user community, but that has engaged a large group of disinterested parties, most of which have never and would never use the core store for their own research/business. The question remains as to why this has been so - is this an unacceptable oversight or something intentional? The cores are currently stored in a good location in a capital city close to the oil capital of NW Europe. The city has the advantage of a good integrated transport network. The current core store serves the industry well, allowing access to individuals and large groups in the industry. Its ease of access allows partner meetings and ad hoc workshops between companies (for which most operating units are based in Aberdeen) and the consulting sector at relatively short notice. Were the core store to be moved, it will no longer be convenient for this purpose, which is key for promoting activity in the North Sea. Moreover, the current core store location has remaining capacity for many years to come, negating the need for a new facility. Without a clear business case for moving the core (the costing of which appears to have been greatly underestimated) other reasons cited, including for the good of science, are rather spurious at best. Indeed, if recent movements of core material are anything to go by, the collection is likely to be severely damaged and its value lost in any large scale relocation.

Having viewed a great many of the cores located at the store in Edinburgh I am of the opinion that the vast majority may not survive transportation down to Keyworth resulting in the loss of a valuable archive.

I am based in London but Gilmerton is just as accessible as Keyworth. All of my visits to Gilmerton have been as part of a larger group of colleagues/associated many of them coming from Aberdeen, so Edinburgh is a convenient meeting place for all.

I am concerned by the apparent lack of openness shown by BGS in this matter - decisions appear to have been made despite advice to the contrary and not in the best interest of users from industry and academia. Geol Soc London did not make the wishes of their membership known during the process - a major fault of GSL. Transportation of core anywhere is a major and risky operation and in the absence of any good reason for this move why bother!!

I am most concerned at the potential for damage to core during the transfer process. Much of this core is fragile and would require re-packing/stabilisation before transfer.

I am very concerned that the BGS consultation was inadequate and users were not consulted. I was not aware of the BGS proposal until it was brought to the attention of the PESGB membership. It does appear that the consultation process has not been open and fair..... I have experience of the severe damage caused by moving a lorry-load of core from London to Aberdeen and feel it is inevitable that there will be a significant amount of damage caused by moving such a large amount of core.

I believe that the preliminary costings for the adequate transportation of core material from Edinburgh to Keyworth are unrealistic. I believe that the [Facilities Review] failed to adequately canvass the opinions of current core store users and where they originate from.

I believe the risks involved in moving such a valuable resource from Edinburgh are too high. This is a resource that cannot be replaced and upgrading the current facilities to an acceptable standard seems like a no brainer in comparison to the risks involved in moving the core. Not to mention the fact that the vast majority of individuals in industry who use this resource are based in Aberdeen, Europe's Oil Capital, and to move this resource further away from this hub does not make any sense.

I completely disagree with the proposed move, which has not had proper consultation. It is very dangerous to move this material at all, and it is obvious that it could be damaged in transit. The oil capital of Europe is in Aberdeen, and not in Nottingham, and as such moving the material even further away from Aberdeen is absurd. There has been very poor consultation over this move. Education institutions that use this material will not easily be able to access the data.

I have no preference on location, provided that the material is well maintained and available for study. Edinburgh facilities for core viewing are good currently (better than Keyworth), but Keyworth has greater and better designed storage capacity. Both locations need a facilities upgrade of some kind if they are to grow significantly bigger than they are currently. BGS staff in both locations are very capable and helpful. BGS Facilities Review was poorly publicised; feedback and comment from users was not actively sought.

Please add any additional comments or explanations (cont.)

I have used the Edinburgh core store on an occasional basis for 18 years. The location is great. When arranging a core viewing for a partner group you know that very few people are ever going to be put off attending because of the location. To move the store to Keyworth would make it far more difficult to get a full complement of desired attendees due to the less well-known and less desirable location; a location with less good national and international connections. To carry out a move that would result in poor attendance at Oil Company Joint Venture core viewings would be to the detriment of those joint ventures and therefore to the detriment of the UK oil industry as a whole. To some extent this would obviate the purpose of storing the core in the first place.

I strongly believe the initial consultation around this decision was flawed with the day-to-day user of the facility omitted from the process. As a key part of the strategic element of Britain's energy programme - this physical dataset needs a clear and fully agreed forward plan by all relevant parties.

I think the risk of damage to the core is too high for the move to Keyworth to take place.

I work for BGS in their Keyworth office. Therefore I would prefer it to move to where I am, saving me the trouble of going to Edinburgh to examine core.

I would be in favour of locating all core in one facility but the facility needs to be of a standard reflecting the investment made in cores by the oil industry. The facility in Edinburgh is somewhat old, cold and basic and could be improved for users and staff. I have never been to Keyworth but would find the drive there just as easy as a flight and local transfers in Edinburgh.

I would have been unable to undertake my research for my degree without having access to the core store in Edinburgh. It makes sense to leave it in Edinburgh as it is accessible by the oil industry.

I'd like it to remain in Edinburgh for my convenience, but I recognise that the long term protection of the core is of prime importance so I trust that the BGS will choose the location where it will be best preserved.

If its moving anywhere Aberdeen should be a consideration.

If the core store has to be moved from Edinburgh then it should be moved closer to a hub for the industry, i.e. either Aberdeen or London

I'm very familiar with the issues as part of the educational team most affected. Many students have benefitted from this facility over the years - I trust they will remember that and vote.

In my view it is a straightforward argument. Edinburgh is readily accessible from London (where my company is based) or Aberdeen whereas Keyworth is not. The impact of moving the cores to Keyworth is that the cores (a priceless dataset) will be visited less often by the industry as whole which is detrimental to oil and gas investment in the UKCS.

It was my first visit to the Gilmerton Core Store in October and November last year, after many trips in the past. While I would suggest that the facilities at the store could be improved to bring them up to date (provision of a digital database of core photographs, logs etc), I do not believe its movement to Keyworth would be a positive step, given the very easy access offered by Edinburgh, from both London and Aberdeen. In addition to this I fear that the loss of valuable and irreplaceable core material during the transportation of material from Edinburgh to Keyworth could be catastrophic.

Keyworth is a difficult place to get to, even from the nearest airport and towns and really requires transport by car. Edinburgh on the other hand has good travel links to all parts of the UK and the core store is easy to reach by public transport.

Keyworth is a remote location that cannot be reached by public transport. This factor alone makes it an unsuitable case for the entire North Sea core collection to be moved there. On top of that there are no nearby hotels, restaurants, etc that would make more than a one day visit possible. The only means of access is by private car.

Please add any additional comments or explanations (cont.)

My main objections to the proposed move are two fold:

1. The proposed move adds considerably to costs as Keyworth is very poorly served with transport links compared to Edinburgh.
2. My second objection is the flawed consultation. The executive director of BGS, is quoted as saying that: "... independent consultants Tribal Group sought views from the oil industry and academics before reaching their recommendations." From the Aberdeen perspective this is puzzling. We have one of the largest centres for petroleum geology research and training in Britain, including a world-leading masters programme. However, as far as I can ascertain, no member of staff here was asked our opinion on this proposed move - so not much of a consultation.

Moving it will be an opportunity to gain a world class core storage and viewing facility. Current facilities are not up to the best international store/viewing facilities. Location from an industry point of view is pretty irrelevant given the extensive travelling required for all aspects of our business.

Moving the cores will inevitably cause damage to the more fragile cores. Keyworth and Edinburgh are probably equally easy/difficult to reach for those in the SE but Keyworth will be far more difficult to reach for those in Aberdeen.

The existing facilities are well run, the staff are massively knowledgeable regarding the collection, and the facility is ideally placed for access by three of the prime UK Universities that provide Petroleum GeoScience MSCs. The facility is also much more easily accessible via train than Keyworth, and overnights are easier due to the better accommodation in Edinburgh. Yet even all this pales into insignificance when the core damage issue is considered! Well done PESGB for actually consulting. BGS could learn a thing or two!

My main concern is the damage this will cause to the cores, especially the older, heavily sampled cores. Many oil companies have moved the location of their cores over the years, resulting in loss and/or damage, that the Gilmerton store remains one of the most reliable collections. Retaining the integrity of the cores is far more important than any perceived benefits of a better building or more 'central' location (ie inconvenient for both London & Aberdeen!)

My main reason for suggesting it be retained in Edinburgh is my concern for the movement of very old core and the fact that in my experience the Edinburgh facility is adequate for my needs.

No new arguments to add.

Personally, I think it makes sense for it to remain in Edinburgh since the bulk of the users come from Scotland. The money allocated for transferring the cores to Keyworth should be used instead for renovating and revamping the Edinburgh core store so that it will be up to the standard required instead of letting it fall to pieces. Thanks.

Q2 - I have only been working in industry for 3 years.

Question 8 isn't really a fair question as it implies you were asked directly, and this was not really the case in this instance. perhaps a better question would be were you aware of the BGS/Tribal facilities review. Certainly didn't see anything published on it in the geol soc mag.

Question 9 should also be does it matter, (apart from geologists missing out on jollies to Edinburgh)

Please add any additional comments or explanations (cont.)

Regardless of the arguments on potential for damage to core in transit, or the sheer magnitude and cost of the removal of such a volume of material, the accessibility to the core is its greatest value. Communications by air and rail to Edinburgh make the core store at Gilmerton an invaluable resource for industry users based in Aberdeen and for all academic researchers in Scotland. It is probably as accessible for many of the core store users in the SE of England, as any facility would be in Keyworth.

Senior BGS management did not allow any internal discussion of the proposed move.

Serious damage to vital and unique core material will result from the move, especially if carried out using standard haulage companies as planned. Repacking of all core material is required and transport in specialist vehicles. This will result in considerably more cost than that specified in the Tribal report, thereby nullifying its conclusions. A core store within Scotland, close to Aberdeen, is required for the benefit of the Oil and Gas industry. HSE record in Gilmerton is exemplary, and staff are exceedingly helpful. Gilmerton site can easily be improved at low cost. No users and experts in the material were consulted, so the BGS can have no idea of the overall transportability of the material. What I have seen consists of loose friable fragments in flimsy cardboard boxes. Movement of this material needs to be minimised if it is to be preserved for future generations. Why does it say 'more modern integrated facility' at the top of the page?! This is steering the vote surely and is hardly an impartial comment. The new facility will simply be a large shed tacked on to the existing buildings. Mechanised racking can also be installed at Gilmerton, so why move the material?

The arguments for and against the move, as laid out in the PESGB magazine, are, it seems to me, utterly persuasive in favour of leaving the facility at Gilmerton. I have not used the facility extensively myself, but during my 30 years working in the UK Oil and Gas industry, I have worked with (and commissioned work by) those who do use the Gilmerton facility on a regular basis. These expert users are unanimous in their support for the Gilmerton facility.

The BGS argue that they will save money from this move but they have not shown how these savings will be made. A lot of the Tertiary core material is friable and will be damaged during transit. The move will be carried out by contractors (not BGS Staff) so the potential for core material being damaged or lost forever is great. The majority of the core is stored in cardboard boxes which was not designed for long distance transit. Older cores are stored in plastic boxes with loose fitting lids. Keyworth is more difficult to get to even from the south of England than Edinburgh. It would no longer be possible for oil industry personnel based in Aberdeen taking a day trip to look at cores. The universities in Edinburgh and Aberdeen use the cores in their undergraduate and post graduate courses and would be unable to continue doing this if the cores were moved south of the border. The BGS claim that it is a health and safety issue but very few man days have been lost in the past few years due to core handling. Mechanisation in Keyworth will not reduce the amount of lifting of core as claimed by the BGS. The BGS claim that the Gilmerton building is not fit for purpose because it was originally a car showroom. However, 75% of the current building comprises purpose built extensions. There is spare capacity for storing cores that will be cut for the next 30 years or so at current rates.

The BGS proposal to move the Gilmerton core store to Keyworth was not presented to industry and there was no consultation given to companies who use the Gilmerton facility. The plans to move the Gilmerton core store to Keyworth have been ill-conceived and will be detrimental to the oil and gas industry. The Gilmerton site stores all the UKCS industry offshore core and is accessible for all users in England and Scotland. Keyworth is an inaccessible location for most users. The cost of transporting the core will be prohibitive and there is a risk of damaging the core in transit.

The BGS should not be allowed to proceed with their planned move.

The way they have attempted to manage the entire consultation process is discreditable. The plan is self-serving and ignores completely the requirements of regular users.

The BGS survey was completed before most in the oil industry knew that closure of the core facility in Edinburgh was being considered. It was not a proper survey of users and potential users.

Please add any additional comments or explanations (cont.)

The case for moving the core store to Keyworth is severely flawed. One of the main pieces of supporting evidence is based on the statistics gathered by Tribal of visits to either location. In the case of Edinburgh each invoice was counted as one visit, irrespective of the number of attendees or the number of days covered by that invoice. One of the major uses of a core store is to enable partner or intra-company groups to hold 'field trips' to the core store. Thus knowledge and expertise is shared. Currently this can be achieved by a short trip, often in a day, by a large number of people at minimum cost. If the store is moved to Keyworth, companies will be less willing to approve the consequent time, travel and accommodation costs. Another consequence might be that greater use is made of commercially stored core material which is often held in Aberdeen. The knock-on effect of that being to deprive BGS of funding even further.

The condition of the cores is critical to their usefulness - if moving them degrades their condition then you may find they are no longer of any technical value and this would be a big loss to the oil and gas industry

The Core Store in Edinburgh is a well run institution that I have used a lot over the years. Clearly it needs investment but that should not be an excuse to close it down. Edinburgh is far easier to get to from the main oil centres of the UK, Aberdeen and London, than Keyworth and if the store were to be moved, I would make less use of it. I also question the practicality of moving the core without the core sustaining damage. The packaged core may look to the untutored eye as simple, easily handled "boxes", but the reality is that this is the national archive and would need to be treated with the same respect as museum pieces to ensure the core did not become damaged, or arguably worse, scrambled.

The core store is more than just a geologic "stamp collection" for the benefit of academics and the ego of the BGS. It is not the core equivalent of a university reference library of interest only to visiting academics. It plays a vital role in the economy viability of the petroleum and offshore industries of the UK and should be treated as the valuable asset that it is. With the bulk of UKCS operations being performed out of Aberdeen, it makes most sense to have a modern core handling and viewing facility within easy reach of Aberdeen or in a city with easy access to an (international) airport. In the Netherlands and Norway it is a statutory legal requirement to provide 50% of all core cut to the government body that regulates Exploration and production in that country (EZ & NPD respectively). In the case of the Netherlands that 50% is held in storage on behalf of the Ministry for Economic Affairs (EZ: ministerie van Economische Zaken) by TNO (formerly Rijks Geologische Dienst). Exploration core material older than 5 years and production cores older than 10 is available for examination. The two important points being that 1) it is a legal requirement for an operator to provide core data to the government and 2) that it is the government that owns the core and decides how and where it should be handled and stored, not the national geological survey. BGS is out of touch with the operators and DECC either, chooses not to, or, more likely, has no legal remit to demand the core from the operators or to decide how and where this stored and can be viewed.

As far as I am aware, the BGS Information Management Facilities Review carried out in 2009 by Tribal Group did not, for whatever reason, choose to inform itself of the wishes of the professional petroleum geoscience community (the largest customer base for the core store) and presented the result as a fait accompli to the UK petroleum industry. It is high time that the government, and DECC in particular, takes a more hands on approach as to how data, vital to the economic development of the energy sector in the UK, is acquired, stored, handled and made available to industry.

The core store should be retained in Edinburgh for the benefit of all industry and academia geoscientists based in the north of England or Scotland and because of the very real risk of damage to the core during transit to Keyworth!

The facilities at the Edinburgh Core store allow students from Glasgow; Edinburgh and Heriott Watt Universities understand the wealth of data we can learn from interpreting core cuttings. Aberdeen Exploration and Production companies also use the core facilities frequently. The core store should remain in Edinburgh with possible refurbishments to the site if required.

The facilities in Edinburgh are good as they are. There is a good chance that by moving the core it will be damaged or lost. Edinburgh is easily reached from London or Aberdeen

The idea of moving to Keyworth is not adequately supported by the detailed findings of the Tribal Group report. Some of the findings are demonstrably misleading and the report lacks credibility in several key areas. The whole, so-called, consultation process has been a travesty. There is a risk of permanent damage to more fragile cores during shipment.

Please add any additional comments or explanations (cont.)

The loss of the material from Edinburgh is part of the problem (makes it very inconvenient for us to hold our practical classes here, and also for industrial personel from North Sea fields to visit the core store from Aberdeen), but also the sheer expense of moving the material, plus the inevitable losses and damage that will occur during such a move would be a criminal waste of invaluable and irreplaceable resources.

The offshore core collections at Edinburgh are a data resource of international importance, for both academic and industrial study. The location of these cores in Edinburgh, close to Europe's petroleum capital of Aberdeen, and with good transport links, is ideal for the efficient viewing and research of these materials. The delicate nature of the samples and their historical value is such that the risk of damage and disruption in moving the many kilometres of core samples to a new location is great. The core really needs to stay in Edinburgh to ensure it's future availability for research.

The so-called consultation is a sham. A fig leaf to cover-up senseless cost-cutting by bean-counters who know nothing of geology, higher education and the offshore industry

The supposed consultation process undertaken by the Tribal Group at the behest of BGS was deeply flawed and appears deliberately biased to achieve the desired result. A fresh consultation is needed that take into account the views of those who actually use the core archive. The main reason that the Edinburgh facility requires improvement is the total lack of investment in the site by BGS over the last 5 years.

The whole basis for the move is spurious and the lack of consultation with oil company, service industry, consultant and academic users is a disgrace. All the arguments used about user locations, finance, HSE and the like can be destroyed if one looks at the facts. Since the first conclusion of BGS's Tribal Report actually states that "the development of two, custom-designed, fit-for-purpose regional storage facilities in Edinburgh and Keyworth has many advantages for example: LOW CONSOLIDATION COSTS, LOWER TRANSPORTATION RISKS and LOWER SITE MANAGEMENT COSTS. This option would also enhance the BGS's reputation as a leading edge institution, providing state-of-the-art facilities on both sides of the border for the full range of collections", I find it unfathomable that the BGS can argue against the conclusion of their own report. They should be asked how their Preferred Option (closing Gilmerton and Loanhead) ever crept into the report's recommendations section whilst contradicting the above conclusion, let alone justify the move on cost grounds. The move should be stopped and a proper, full, open and transparent review held in which user opinion is treated properly and with respect.

There are the obvious issues with moving historical core pieces around. I would prefer somewhere that has an airport close by with good transport links and a variety of guesthouse/hotel facilities. I would prefer that ALL UK hydrocarbon industry core material is stored at the SAME location. I can see many advantages of having a single modern core viewing facility in the UK. This should not be at the expense of losing any of this precious rock material. Thanks for your attention.

There was a distinct lack of consultation with actual users of the facilities and this needs to be addressed. The prime requisite for any site is accessibility by industry and academia alike and for that to work the site needs to be located close to good transport infrastructure. Keyworth does not honour that criteria. There is no pre-requisite for onshore and offshore cores to be retained in the same site as their access tends to be by different communities of user. As much of the core is friable and fragile, the other major consideration is the damage that may be caused to core by relocation through poorly supervised and uninformed shipping companies. In addition there is the issue that much of this resource could be taken out of public access for a considerable time due to relocation. The indication is that the relocation is being considered purely due to the investment in a new site at Keyworth and thus becomes an issue driven by commercial considerations rather than one that will be of most benefit to users.

This is the only repository for core in Scotland and its proximity to the Oil industry capital of Europe should be maintained. In Aberdeen nearly all the oil & gas companies are based and from them most of the core that resides there was suplied. As a place of research that is so intimately linked with the UK offshore industry I see no value what so ever in moving to Keyworth.

My company has used Edinburgh core visits to better understand one exploration and one development opportunity. This has helped to justify significant investment into the UK oil business. I believe that moving the core from Edinburgh would damage some of the core, and also would result in less core inspections because it would be further away from the technical teams in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. It would also be harder to get to from my company. I also believe that the core is a Scottish asset and do not think that it should be moved to England. Note I am English.

Please add any additional comments or explanations (cont.)

Very accessible location near Aberdeen with excellent staff. At the current location, the core store is a very useful asset to the industry - especially during time critical periods such as the Licence Rounds. The proposed move would remove these benefits, would cause more travel cost and pollution and would significantly diminish the use of these important data.

We often meet partners or consultants at the core store and they are generally coming down from Aberdeen. Edinburgh is easy for us all to get to and there are many places to stay. Nottingham would be much less convenient for everyone.

Whilst the move to Keyworth will affect those in Edinburgh most, it will benefit the vast numbers of industry and academics in the south. Nottingham is easily accessible by plane from Aberdeen and Edinburgh (daily flights) and is only a two hour drive from London. As long as due care is taken transporting the core then there is no reason why it should not be moved.

With reference to question 4. I have read the responses from both sides in the PESGB newsletters amongst other media, therefore perhaps more in between 'a bit' and 'very' With reference to question 5. The current facilities at Gilmerton have been sufficient for my needs as an academic researcher with the additional benefits of good location and service. I agree that - on the whole - the facilities should be improved, especially for the needs of industry users.