

UKGAP Theme 1: Furthering the Frontiers of the Geosciences

UKGAP Indicator 1: Recognition within research - the number of refereed research papers relating to UK geodiversity

Relevance

Determining the number of published research papers about the UK's geodiversity provides a level of understanding of the importance of UK geodiversity within the academic research community. Since many of the authors of the research papers are also university lecturers, the data may also give an indication of the extent to which UK geodiversity is taught, or used to illustrate fundamental geological principles, within higher education.

Data Sources

Six peer-reviewed periodicals are used as the source data for this indicator:

- *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*;
- *Palaeontology*;
- *Journal of the Geological Society*;
- *Scottish Journal of Geology*;
- *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society*;
- *Bulletin of the Geological Society of Norfolk*.

Background to the Data

The six periodicals were selected to provide a reasonable representation of the variety of published British geological journals. Some of them focus on international subjects (*Palaeontology* for example, although with a European bias) and some, by their nature, have a more national or regional focus (*Bulletin of the Geological Society of Norfolk* for example). Between them, the six periodicals also represent different sizes of journal and different readership. The six periodicals were also selected for their ease of data collection, with back issues available online.

The method selected to identify whether papers related to UK geodiversity was kept simple. For the six periodicals listed, each issue from 2006 onwards was considered. The title of each paper and its abstract were reviewed to confirm whether the paper dealt with any of the many aspects of geodiversity. In fact all papers within the selected journals concerned geodiversity. A direct reference to a UK place was the method used to identify whether the research related to the UK.

Data

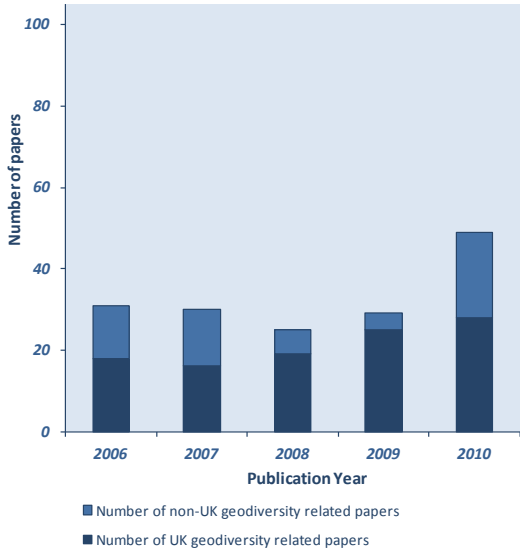
Table 1a below shows the total number of peer-reviewed papers within each publication and the number of these that relate to UK geodiversity. A separate chart has been produced to portray the relevant data for each publication. The final chart shows the percentage of papers relating to UK geodiversity compared to all papers within the six selected journals.

Table 1a: Number of Papers Relating to Geodiversity (Total and UK)

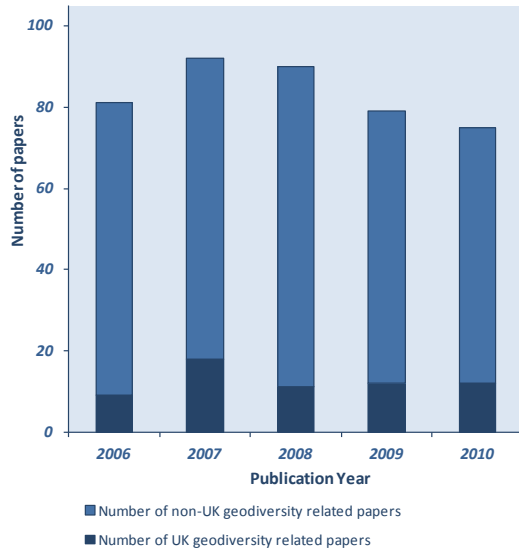
Papers:	Proceedings of the Geologists' Association		Palaeontology		Journal of the Geological Society		Scottish Journal of Geology		Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society		Bulletin of the Geological Society of Norfolk		All Publications	
	Total	UK	Total	UK	Total	UK	Total	UK	Total	UK	Total	UK	Total	UK
2006	31	18	81	9	89	17	17	17	14	14	6	6	238	81
2007	30	16	92	18	102	26	21	21	9	9	2	2	256	92
2008	25	19	90	11	88	18	17	17	10	10	3	3	233	78
2009	29	25	79	12	98	21	21	21	7	7	2	2	236	88
2010	49	28	75	12	98	17	22	22	8	8	n/a	n/a	252	87

Note: at the time of writing, the 2010 Bulletin of the Geological Society of Norfolk had not been published.

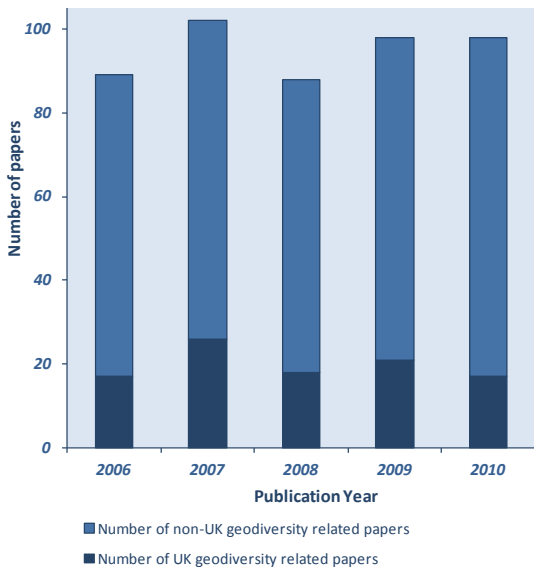
The number and share of geodiversity-related papers which relate to UK geodiversity - *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*



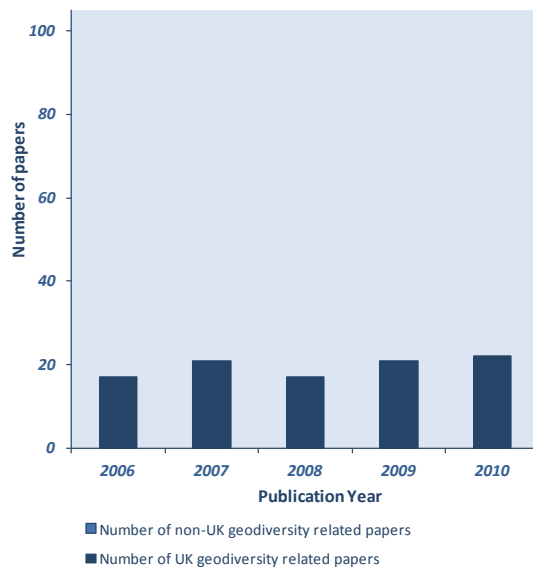
The number and share of geodiversity-related papers which relate to UK geodiversity - *Palaeontology*



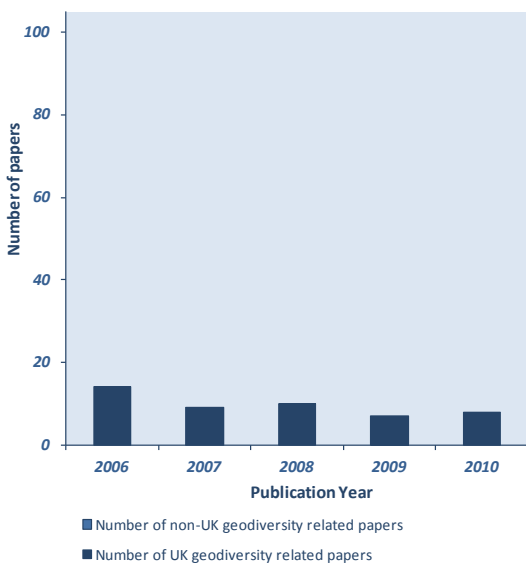
The number and share of geodiversity-related papers which relate to UK geodiversity - *Journal of the Geological Society*



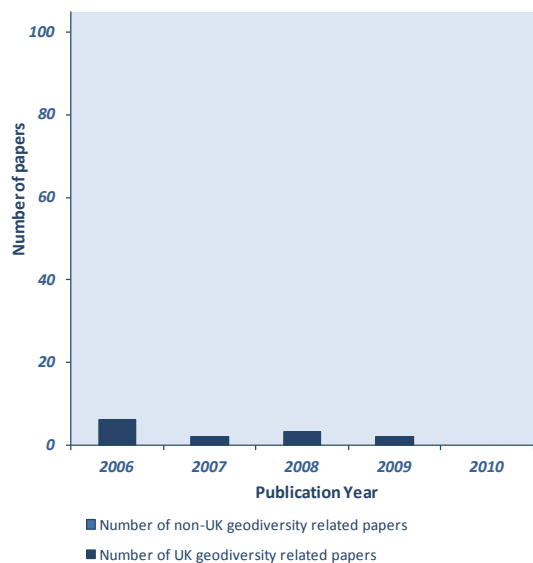
The number and share of geodiversity-related papers which relate to UK geodiversity - *Scottish Journal of Geology*

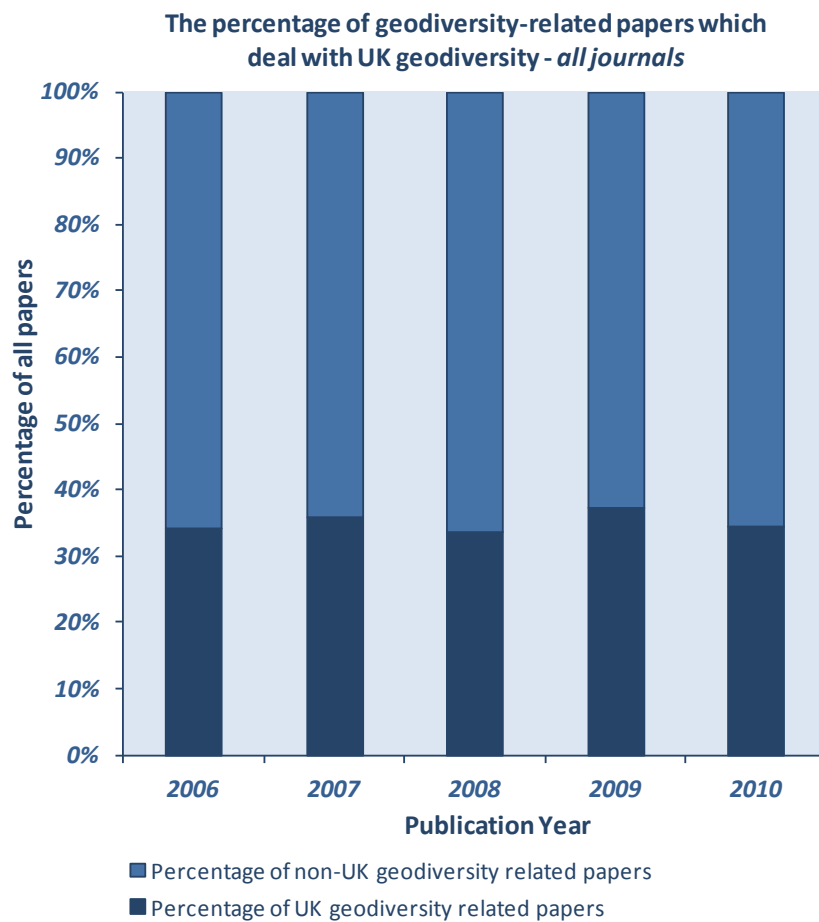


The number and share of geodiversity-related papers which relate to UK geodiversity - *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geology Trust*



The number and share of geodiversity-related papers which relate to UK geodiversity - *Bulletin of the Geological Society of Norfolk*





Assessment of Trend

To the extent that the regional- or country-based periodicals deal with geodiversity, the focus is entirely on the UK, as might be expected, whilst in more broadly-based publications, with the exception of the *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* (traditionally based on UK fieldwork and applied research), the proportion of papers relating to UK geodiversity is much lower. Some further detail is provided below:

- *The Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*: This publication has seen an overall increase in UK geodiversity related papers since 2006 and has the greatest total number of contributions during the period (106 papers). However, whilst the total numbers of papers saw a large increase in 2010, the number of UK-based papers did not rise to the same degree.
- *Palaeontology*: The number of papers relating to UK geodiversity has been consistently low when compared to the total number of papers.
- *Journal of the Geological Society*: The number of papers relating to UK geodiversity has been consistently low when compared to the total number of papers.
- *Scottish Journal of Geology*: All papers within this publication concern UK geodiversity. Overall numbers of papers have remained consistent at around 20 papers per year.
- *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geology Trust*: All papers within this publication concern UK geodiversity. The numbers of papers published each year has been consistently low.
- *Bulletin of the Geological Society of Norfolk*: All papers within this publication concern UK geodiversity. This publication has the lowest total number of contributions during the period (13 papers) and has seen an overall decline in numbers since 2006.

- *Overall:* Since 2006 the total number and percentage of contributions to the selected publications relating to UK geodiversity have both remained surprisingly consistent, at about 85 articles a year and about 35% of all geodiversity-related articles published by the selected journals.

Data Limitations and Future Recommendations

The data are limited by the subjective analysis applied to confirm each individual paper's reference to UK Geodiversity. The same method (if not the same person) should be used each year to complete the analysis.

The six periodicals were selected for their ease of data collection, with back issues available online. This should make future annual updates more straightforward.

It would be interesting in future to extend the coverage to include a number of periodicals published in other countries – including say: North America; Australia; South Africa; and, China. The extent to which UK geodiversity is considered within this greater range of periodicals would help to identify the worldwide value of UK geodiversity in furthering the frontiers of the geosciences.

It would also be interesting to consider the extent to which geodiversity is considered within journals predominately concerning the subject areas of biodiversity or landscape.