

from evaporites is a good indicator of very low groundwater flow, whatever the permeability of the rock. I'm aware of such in the St Bees Sandstone beneath Sellafield (Bath et al., 1996), and at depth in the Chalk of East Anglia, proven at Trunch in Norfolk but probably present under Sizewell in Suffolk (Heathcote, 2024). My own preferred location, on geological grounds, would be near Sizewell in the lower part of the Chalk, which is characterised by very old saline groundwater, an area of likely glacial deposition rather than erosion, and long-term tectonic subsidence. Excavating tunnels in the Chalk beneath the water table is very well understood (e.g. the Channel Tunnel) and it's not necessary to go very deep.

Local acceptance (not the same as volunteering) remains important, though. I appreciate the concept of 'acceptance', since where I live now in Scotland, a great deal of renewables electricity infrastructure is being foisted on us to meet needs in England, and it is meeting much opposition from host communities. **G**

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FURTHER READING

A full list of further reading is available at [geoscientist.online](https://www.geoscientist.online).

- Bath, A.H. et al. (1996) QJEGH 29, S39 - S57
- Heathcote, J.A. (2024) QJEGH 58
- Turner, J. (2025) Geoscientist 35 (3), 18-19

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The Sheffield University South Iceland Expedition approaching the ash-covered township of Heimaey in 1973; the 'new' second mountain is visible to the left

LETTER

Icelandic reminiscence

DEAR EDITORS,

In the Autumn 2025 edition, Dr Rhian Meara presents a lovely example of how working within the Earth sciences can lead to a range of careers, sometimes unthought of when setting out (*Geoscientist* 35 (3), 40-44).

Rhian describes her deep connection with the Icelandic island of Heimaey and how the impact of the 1973 eruption on the local community was a driver in altering her career towards the social sciences.

Her beautiful photographs reminded me of a cold overcast June day in 1973, when, as a member of the Sheffield University South Iceland Expedition, I had the good fortune to see Heimaey within months of the eruption.

We were on the MS *Gullfoss* ferry from Leith to Reykjavik when it dropped off supplies and passengers at Heimaey. It was a remarkable sight, especially for many in our team who had only just graduated as geologists.

We sailed past the still hot and steaming lava front which had reduced the once wide harbour mouth to a channel barely wide enough for the ship to navigate.

A fellow passenger returning home to Heimaey after two years away told us that when he left there was only one mountain, now there were two! **G**

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