

Will climate change in the Arctic increase the landslide-tsunami risk to the UK?

Project Newsletter 2
25 March 2013

Internal announcements

Change in project manager:

Note that James Hunt will be taking over as project manager from Morelia Urlaub from 1st April. His email is james.hunt@noc.soton.ac.uk.

6 months project extension:

The request for a six months extension to the end date of the project has been approved by NERC. The end date of the project is now end of March 2017.

Willis Research Network boarded as project partner:

Willis agreed to provide GIS data on critical infrastructures along the UK coastline relevant to Work Block 6. A confidentiality contract between Willis, Imperial College and NOCS is under way.

Website:

A public website with information on the project for the public, as well as with relevant news, contact details and links has gone live and can be found here:

<http://projects.noc.ac.uk/landslide-tsunami>

FTP server:

For swapping large data sets a project FTP server has been set up that can be accessed via:

<ftp://ftp.noc.soton.ac.uk/pub/jeh2g08/>

This FTP server is open access. For confidential data a password restricted FTP server will be set up shortly.

6 months form:

A 6-months report form has been circulated among work block leaders in order to track progress of individual work blocks. Each work block leader has to complete the form for their respective work block. To facilitate this, I would like to encourage all project partners to keep a record of

- (I) publications, presentation or conference contributions that have been produced as part of the project as well as
- (II) any media contact or outreach related to the project that you have been involved with.

Media Coverage

Nature Climate Change feature:

The project features in the March issue of Nature Climate Change. The interview with Pete Talling is entitled "Waves on the horizon" and can be found in the Interview section of the current issue:

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v3/n3/full/nclimate1815.html>

BBC Mega-tsunami Programme:

The BBC are making a second mega-tsunami program which will be broadcast in the next few months. Dave Tappin was filmed in the Canaries and the BBC producer met with Peter Talling and others at NOC, who urged that over- sensationalist reporting was to be avoided.

Project related news

Government access to scientific information of tsunami hazards:

The previous newsletter outlined that “very little science is used in tsunami mitigation”, which may have given a wrong impression regarding the government access to information of tsunami hazards. The Natural Hazards Partnership is the key platform that enables transfer of scientific advice to public sector agencies (such as the Cabinet Office Natural Hazards Team within the Civil Contingencies Secretariat) in mitigation of natural hazards. Kevin Horsburgh (NOC) and Dave Kerridge (BGS) represent NERC in the Natural Hazards Partnership.

Arctic Geological Map:

This geological map of the Arctic may be of interest for some of the work blocks:

http://apps1.gdr.nrcan.gc.ca/mirage/prepare_download_e.php?client=jp2&id=225705&image=gscof_5816_e_2008_mn02.sid

Upcoming Meetings / Conferences / Workshops

Annual project meeting:

The annual meeting with all project partners will take place on 4th September 2013 at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton. Information regarding travel and accommodation can be found on the project website (<http://projects.noc.ac.uk/landslide-tsunami/news>).

UK Arctic Science Conference:

The 3rd UK Arctic Science Conference will take place from Wednesday 18th September to Friday 20th September 2013 and will be hosted by the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. This three day conference aims to bring together UK Arctic scientists of all physical and social science disciplines to present and discuss recent findings. Registration and abstract submission opens on 2nd April 2013 and closes on 1st July 2013.

Past Meetings / Conferences / Workshops

Tsunami deposit workshop:

A workshop in Edinburgh on 8th February 2013 brought together Work Block 2 members and international collaborators to discuss the identification of tsunami deposits, WB 2 fieldwork sites and the production of the North Atlantic tsunami deposit catalogue. With much of the previous literature data already now collated for the tsunami deposit database, the level of detail and scale to which the database will be finished featured heavily in our discussions.

NERC Arctic Thematic Programme town meeting:

The NERC Arctic thematic programme (<http://www.arctic.ac.uk/programme>) held a town meeting in Cambridge on 6th March 2013, which was attended by James Hunt (the forthcoming project manager). Emphasis was put on collaboration between the projects, data management as well as knowledge exchange. The other projects in this thematic programme concern atmosphere/ocean/sea-ice (TEA-COSI, ACCACIA, SEATS and APPOSITE) and the carbon cycle (MAMM, LAKE-C, PERM-HYDRO and CYCLOPS). In reference to data management NERC have opened the Arctic Office, which has an interactive map that shows locations of gathered data (<http://map.arctic.ac.uk/home>). Knowledge exchange featured heavily. We are urged to direct media news-worthy stories through the central hub based at BAS. Although you may have your own knowledge exchange/media co-ordinators to report news, it would be best if all Arctic Geohazards related news be relayed through myself to NERC to help minimise logistics. If anyone has their own media websites/social media it would be worth advertising these centrally.

Upcoming deadlines

1 May 2013:

WB1 (with WB3) defining possible locations of future large landslides as input to tsunami modelling.

Work Block Achievements

WB 1 (WB Leader: Peter Talling)

- compilation of available core and geophysical data in the project area
- identification of seven source locations for tsunami generation

WB 2 (WB Leader: Sue Dawson)

- initiation of tsunami deposit database
- preparations for first fieldwork campaign in Iceland in May 2013

WB 4 (WB Leader: Antonis Zervos)

- database with mechanical properties of Arctic sediments
- summary maps with anticipated geotechnical conditions

WB 5/6 (WB Leader: Matthew Piggott, Kevin Horsburgh)

- geospatial data base of UK combining data from Ordnance Survey, GSHHS and Edina (and potentially Willis and Environment Agency) and integration into tsunami simulation mesh
- characterisation of impacts of landslide characteristics (volume, speed) on tsunami generation using a multi-material landslide generation approach

Time line for upcoming 6 months
 Milestone 1: 1 May 2013

