

Kathie Bowden

Citation: For Services to the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society

Kathie graduated from University College London with a degree in geology, before pursuing a career in industry. Her early career focussed on the minerals industry and she worked for the Selection Trust, BP Minerals International Ltd and Rio Tinto Zinc before joining NRSC Ltd (now part of Infoterra). She then went on to be an independent consultant and currently works for the NERC Earth System Science Centre at the University of Reading.

During the 1980s, Kathie was an active member of the Geological Applications Working Group, which was one of several advisory groups that fed information into the UK's Earth Observation Programme Board. When these Working Groups were disbanded, in the late 1980s, the geologists decided that the group had been a useful forum for discussion and so they explored ways of continuing this function. This proved timely since the Remote Sensing Society was at the time seeking to encourage the development of technical subdivisions. As a result the Geological Remote Sensing Group was formed in 1989, jointly affiliated to the Remote Sensing Society and the Geological Society, with Kathie as the first Treasurer. Since then the GRSG has gone from strength to strength.

Kathie has always been a strong supporter of the Society. She was elected to the Council of the Remote Sensing Society in 1988 and focussed her activities on the Membership and Overseas Committee. She became Vice Chairman of that Society in 1995 and Chairman in 1998. In the latter role, Kathie was a leading player in the negotiations with the Photogrammetric Society to merge the two Societies. The existence of the Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society owes a lot to Kathie's belief that the merger was important for the future of the science in the UK, and to the sensitivity, determination and good faith she applied to the negotiations.