



Prof Stephen Sparks FRS CBE

Prof Stephen Sparks FRS CBE is appointed by the Secretary of State on recommendation of the President of the Royal Society. He is Professor of Geology in the School of Earth Sciences at Bristol University and his research has been highly influential in the field of volcanology and petrology. He became a fellow of the Royal Society in 1988 and was awarded a CBE in 2012 for services to environmental sciences. He has served as president of numerous geological and volcanology societies in the UK and internationally.

Prof Sparks' research concerns quantitative studies of geological processes using a combination of field studies, laboratory experiments, analytical studies and theoretical modelling. His main focus has been on volcanic and igneous processes, and he has also made contributions in fundamental fluid mechanics, sedimentology, and risk assessment methodologies for natural hazards.

Research in volcanology includes: mapping of volcanoes and young volcanic deposits; monitoring of eruptions; investigation of magmatic and volcanic flows through analogue experiments, numerical modelling and theory development; petrological studies of igneous rocks; and development of novel approaches to hazard and risk assessment. Applied research includes risk assessment methodologies for environmental and natural hazards, nuclear waste disposal and mining.

Prof Sparks is a member of a number of committees, including the Royal Society Council, Royal Society Education Committee and the American Geophysical Union Audit Committee.