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Andy is a physical geographer with field experience in the North Atlantic. His research is focused on understanding environmental change over timescales from decades to millennia, and their significance for human society. A key theme is the development and application of *tephrochronology*; a dating technique based on the identification and correlation of volcanic ash layers. Andy has applied tephrochronology in glaciology, glacial geomorphology, palaeoecology, studies of slope stability and soil erosion, and joint projects with archaeologists. He is currently Chair of the Degree Programmes in Geography at Edinburgh and adjunct faculty on the CUNY Doctoral Program in Anthropology. Between 2002-7 Andy co-directed a UK Leverhulme Trust Programme study of *Landscapes circum- Landám: Viking Settlement in the North Atlantic and its human and environmental consequences*, and is currently engaged in follow up projects which will assess the interactions of Norse and indigenous peoples in Greenland and Arctic Scandinavia (also funded by the Leverhulme Trust) and an IPY project on *Human ecodynamics in the Norse North Atlantic*.