



The Ussher Society

Geoscience in South-West England

62nd Annual Conference

Plymouth, Devon

Thursday 9th - Saturday 11th January 2025



Conference Circular - Call for Papers & Conference Attendance

The Ussher Society is pleased to announce its 62nd Annual Conference will be held at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Plymouth, Devon, from Thursday, 9th, to Saturday, 11th of January 2025. This 2 + 1 day conference for Earth and environmental scientists working in South-west England and related areas includes 2 days of presentations and a field excursion day. The presentation days will be Thursday & Friday – oral and/or poster presentations will be welcomed in all areas of the geosciences relating to South-west England.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

South-west geology, geomorphology and palaeontology are alive and well!

Plymouth, has much to celebrate, historically the sheltered deep-water anchorages of The Sound and the Hamoaze, at the estuary of the Tamar, provided Plymouth an historically important role as one of the country's major naval ports. The area was also the site of extraction for a range of minerals.

The original detailed geological survey of Plymouth and adjacent one-inch sheets, just over a century ago, was by one of the Survey's great field geologists, W A E Ussher. Leveridge et al., updated the survey in 2002 with details demonstrating for the first time the existence of a Palaeozoic passive margin, and data and discussion required for infrastructural developments and environmentally linked programmes within the district.

Now-a-days the geology of Plymouth is important enough that Plymouth Sound, Shores and Cliffs are a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Also the University of Plymouth offers earth science courses that are designed around a core syllabus which provides students with the skills and expertise that are critical to tackle today's challenges of global environmental change. Both the University and Royal William Yard are promoting their geology with interactive Geo Trails.

Scott Simpson Lecturer: Julian Murton

Areas of expertise: Periglacial features in SW England

Following the recent publication from Jenny Bennett and co-authors, which reviewed the severe cold climate and periglacial conditions that affected Devon for much of Quaternary, Julian Murton will draw on his extensive career and active research on Arctic permafrost regions in the Northern Hemisphere, experimental periglacial geomorphology, and Quaternary and engineering geology of past permafrost and periglacial regions, to discuss Periglacial features found in SW England,

Bennett, J.A., Cullingford, R.A., Gibbard, P.L., Hughes, P.D. & Murton, J.B. 2024. The Quaternary Geology of Devon., Proceedings of the Ussher Society, 15, 3, pp.84-130.

The Conference programme will also include a themed session on Structural Soils organised by Alan Cattell from Structural Soils Ltd.



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AECOM

Thursday 9th January

- Conference Registration 08:00 (Conference starts 09:15)
 - Presentations: oral and poster presentations.
 - Scott Simpson Lecture
- Ussher AGM 16:45
- Conference Icebreaker drinks 18:00 (drinks tokens included in the conference fee).
 - The Conference Icebreaker drinks are kindly sponsored by AECOM
- The Conference Dinner will be in the Duke of Cornwall Hotel at 19:00-19:30

Friday 10th January

Conference Registration 08:30-09:20 (Conference start 09:30)

- Presentations: oral and poster presentations.
- Conference closes at the end of the afternoon session 16:45

Saturday 11th January

Conference field excursion.

Lower to Upper Devonian facies, faunas – and structural evolution - of the Bovisand to Mountbatten coast, Plymouth.

The eastern coast of Plymouth sounds provides an excellent opportunity to explore the evolution of Lower to Middle Devonian facies from non-marine Dartmouth Group, through shallow marine Meadfoot Group – with a possible fluvial event – through off-shore mudrocks and volcanics to a Middle Devonian carbonate platform (with coralline faunas). Despite a general *stratigraphical* younging northwards, the sequence has been interpreted as being largely inverted and complex tectonic models have been proposed to account for the transition from non-marine to carbonate platform environments. But do they really ‘work’ and are other interpretations possible?

The aim of the excursion, therefore, is to ‘get back to the rocks’ and begin to explore the field evidence for the current models of the evolution of the facies of the historical ‘Type’ Devonian of SW England. Discussion from sedimentological and structural perspectives will definitely be encouraged!

Further details about the itinerary, including meeting places, will be provided in due course, but are likely to include car-parking at Bovisand Bay (pay), Jennycliff and Mountbatten (no payment required).

Opportunities for lunch stops will also be explored.

Guide: Kevin Page, Geodiversity & Heritage/ Camborne School of Mines, University of Exeter (kevinpage@gmail.com)

Please indicate if you are interested in participating in the field excursion on the Conference Booking Form.

Part 2

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

Note that it is your responsibility to make arrangements/payment for the accommodation you require before, during and after the conference. Please quote **USSHER SOCIETY in any accommodation communications with the hotel.**

The conference venue is the:

Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Millbay Road, Plymouth, PL1 3LG positioned close to the centre of Plymouth.

The Duke of Cornwall Hotel has an imposing gothic building style, grand rooms and hallways and a Grade II listed staircase. It is ideally positioned on the fringe of Plymouth's vibrant city centre. Here, you'll find a comprehensive selection of shops and eateries. Just across the road from the hotel is the world-famous Plymouth Hoe offering beautiful scenic views of the city and sea.

Car parking is available at the hotel. The nearest mainline train station is Plymouth. Taxis should be available at the station (about 5-minute taxi drive) or it is a 25-minute walk from the station to the Hotel.

Full details of the accommodation are available at: <https://thedukeofcornwall.co.uk/>

Ussher Society Conference 2025 Room Rates

We have discussed with the hotel to secure discounted rates, so please **mention the Ussher Society** when booking. The prices quoted are maximum values, but other savings might be available on request.

Demand for rooms is likely to be high, so early booking is strongly recommended.

Discounted accommodation rates for anyone attending the conference, are as follows

£60.00 – Single Room
£70.00 – Double/Twin Room – Sole Occupancy
£85.00 – Double/Twin Room

These rates include full English breakfast and VAT.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Cancellations will be determined by the hotel and information provided on booking
2. All room types are subject to availability and are on a first-come, first served basis.
3. Guests will be making their own reservations for the accommodation and are to settle their own accounts.

Alternative accommodation can be found in Plymouth e.g. The New Continental hotel.

Part 3

CONFERENCE BOOKING

Please ensure the return of the conference booking form and payment by:

Monday 6th January 2025.

Note: A number of bursary funds are available to contribute towards the cost of full-time students wishing to attend the meeting to present a paper or poster (contact Andrew Green using Conference@ussher.org.uk for details).

Conference Coordinators 2025: Andrew Green / Gregory Price

Please return conference forms and payment to:

Ussher Conference: **Email:** Conference@ussher.org.uk

Address: Andrew Green, 65 Lane Field Road, Bideford, Devon, EX39 3RD

Please address payment to "***Ussher Society Conference***"

BACS payment to:

Sort Code: 40-20-30

Account No: 91039059

Ref: Your 1st initial+Surname+P25 e.g. AGreenP25

Cheque payment to: *Ussher Society Conference*

Ref on cheque back Your 1st initial+Surname+P25 e.g. AGreenP25

Your name (1st initial+Surname+P25) e.g. AGreenP25 as BACS Ref is important for us to monitor payments.

The Conference Dinner will consist of a 3 course meal and coffee. It will be a pre-order affair.

The conference meal menu options will be circulated shortly.

CONFERENCE BOOKING FORM
**The Ussher Society 62nd Annual Conference – Duke of Cornwall
Hotel, Plymouth, Thursday 9th – Saturday 11th January 2025**

NAME:

Member of Ussher Society: YES / NO

Name (& Affiliation) for Conference Badge:

ADDRESS:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

To reduce costs, we shall use email for contact

I wish to register for the conference as follows (please tick where appropriate):

Member Rate**

@ £15.00

Non-Member Rate

@ £50.00

Full-time Student Rate

@ £20.00

****Subsidised Conference Rates apply for
current fully paid members only**

**Complete the membership form on the next
page to become a member.**

***If you have questions regarding your
membership status please email:
secretary@ussher.org.uk***

N.B. Registration includes morning/afternoon tea/coffee and lunch on Thurs/Friday at the conference venue. Vegetarian and gluten free options will be provided for.

Conference Dinner on Thursday 11th January @ £35.00 for 3 courses and coffee

I wish to book the Conference Dinner for person(s) @ £35.00 pp

Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options will be provided.

I make payment for £ to “Ussher Society Conference” - by BACS / Cheque

(attached)

Please mark to indicate

Signature: Date:

Please tick if you require a receipt: (provided at conference registration)

Field Excursion

I am interested in participating on **Saturday 11th January 2025: YES /NO** for person(s)

(Please circle to indicate your initial intentions; details will follow).

Part 3 – Conference Dinner Menu Pre-Order #1

STARTERS

- 1) BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP
Thyme and Garlic with Black Pepper Croutons
- 2) CHICKEN LIVER PARFAIT
Confit Red Onion, Garlic Crostini
- 3) WARM ASPARAGUS AND WILD MUSHROOM TARTLET
Dressed Leaves, Poached Tomatoes and Quails Egg

MAINS

- 4) ROAST LOIN OF WESTCOUNTRY PORK
Cider jus and Black Pudding Bon Bon
- 5) ROAST HAKE
Tomato, Olive and Goats Cheese Crumb, on a Parsley Sauce
- 6) ROASTED VEGETABLE WELLINGTON
Spiced Parsnip Puree, Vegetable Glaze

DESSERTS

- 7) CLASSIC LEMON TART
Raspberries, Berry Coulis, and Clotted Cream
- 8) STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING
Clotted Cream Ice Cream, Caramel Sauce
- 9) STRAWBERRY AND KIWI FRUIT PAVLOVA
Berry Compote
Tea, Coffee and Chocolate Mints

Name: _____

Dinner Course	Select option number from menu and VE, V or GF if required (please circle)	
Starter: 1, 2, or 3		Require adaptation: VE / GF
Main: 4, 5, or 6		Require adaptation: VE / GF
Dessert: 7, 8, or 9		Require adaptation: VE / GF

Part 3 – Conference Dinner Menu Pre-Order #2

STARTERS

- 1) BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP
Thyme and Garlic with Black Pepper Croutons

- 2) CHICKEN LIVER PARFAIT
Confit Red Onion, Garlic Crostini

- 3) WARM ASPARAGUS AND WILD MUSHROOM TARTLET
Dressed Leaves, Poached Tomatoes and Quails Egg

MAINS

- 4) ROAST LOIN OF WESTCOUNTRY PORK
Cider jus and Black Pudding Bon Bon

- 5) ROAST HAKE
Tomato, Olive and Goats Cheese Crumb, on a Parsley Sauce

- 6) ROASTED VEGETABLE WELLINGTON
Spiced Parsnip Puree, Vegetable Glaze

DESSERTS

- 7) CLASSIC LEMON TART
Raspberries, Berry Coulis, and Clotted Cream

- 8) STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING
Clotted Cream Ice Cream, Caramel Sauce

- 9) STRAWBERRY AND KIWI FRUIT PAVLOVA
Berry Compote
Tea, Coffee and Chocolate Mints

Name: _____

Dinner Course	Select option number from menu and VE, V or GF if required (please circle)	
Starter: 1, 2, or 3		Require adaptation: VE / GF
Main: 4, 5, or 6		Require adaptation: VE / GF
Dessert: 7, 8, or 9		Require adaptation: VE / GF

THE USSHER SOCIETY



Application for Membership

Title

SurnameForenames.....

Address for correspondence

.....
.....
.....

Post Code.....

Phone/Mobile (incl area code).....

Email (preferably personal).....

Category of membership (and annual subscription) - please tick:

Ordinary (£30)

Student (£12)

University: _____

Name of Supervisor: _____ Date _____

Signature of Supervisor: _____

Either: 1) Set up a standing order with your bank to come out on the 1st of January each year.
The Ussher Society: Account – 91039059, Sort code - 40-20-30 (HSBC Bank) and email the completed application to Secretary@ussher.org.uk & Treasurer@ussher.org.uk

or

2) **Send the completed application** with cheque payment to the Treasurer:

**Mr D. Roche,
Ussher Society (Hon Treasurer),
47, Rivermead Road
Exeter, Devon
EX2 4RH**

Cheques for the annual subscription should be made payable to The Ussher Society .

I give the Ussher Society permission to use my contact details, for Ussher Society use only, as detailed in the Ussher Society Privacy Policy.

Please see Ussher Society Privacy Policy on our website: <http://ussher.org.uk/membership>