

8th International Symposium on the Cretaceous System

**University of Plymouth, UK
6th – 12th September 2009**

**Convenors:
Malcolm Hart &
Gregory Price**



8th International Symposium on the Cretaceous System

University of Plymouth, U.K.

6th – 12th September 2009 - followed by field excursions

This meeting will follow the tradition of other successful Cretaceous Conferences over recent years and attempt to embrace a wide range of interests. We hope that specialists from around the world will attend and that we can generate a programme of lectures, posters, excursions and social events worthy of such an international gathering. The University of Plymouth is pleased to host this meeting, following the successful Symposium in Neuchâtel in 2005. As 2009 is the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Origin of Species* we hope that this meeting will celebrate his legacy. Plymouth does have a real connection to the work of Charles Darwin as HMS *Beagle* left Plymouth Sound at the beginning of the famous voyage to South America that so influenced the young Darwin.

1. CONTACTS

The website for information and circulars will be accessible through:

<http://www2.plymouth.ac.uk/science/cretaceous/>

To contact the Organising Committee please use:

mhart@plymouth.ac.uk

2. FORMAT OF THE MEETING

Registration will be open on the Sunday afternoon and evening at which time there will be time to meet in an icebreaker. Lecture and Poster sessions will take place from Monday to Friday. Field trips will depart on the Saturday morning. There may be a local excursion (choice of social or geological) on the afternoon of Wednesday.

3. KEY THEMES FOR SESSIONS

While some themes have already been identified or suggested we are open to suggestions for further sessions that can be fitted into the programme. Those that have already been identified include:

International Sub-Commission: meeting on stage boundaries

Base Cretaceous definition: session on the J/K boundary

Chalk of the North Sea Basin and adjacent areas: session combining aspects of on-shore and off-shore chalk stratigraphy, (micro)palaeontology and sedimentology.

Sequence Stratigraphy: session combining industrial and academic research into sedimentary successions worldwide.

Darwin 200th Anniversary Session: session with a palaeontological theme (palaeoecology, evolution, taphonomy, etc.) appropriate to the anniversary

Sedimentology + stable isotopes: session on aspects of geochemistry and stable isotopes

Cretaceous Climates: session on climate modelling and evidence of change throughout the Cretaceous

Other Sessions might include:

- Stratigraphy of the Early Cretaceous
- Stratigraphy of the Late Cretaceous
- Cretaceous Palaeoecology, Ecosystems and Evolution (Darwin Symposium with Keynote speaker)
- Cretaceous Terrestrial Vegetation
- Cretaceous Micropalaeontology (including Foraminifera Radiolaria, Calcareous Nannofossils and other groups)
- Cretaceous Carbonate Platforms
- Cretaceous Sea Level Change and Sequence Stratigraphy
- Cretaceous “anoxic events” (Aptian, Albian, Late Cenomanian, etc.)
- Cretaceous Oceanic Red Beds (IGCP 463, 494)
- Cretaceous Continental Record
- Cretaceous Climates (including new IGCP project)

- Cretaceous volcanic and tectonic processes
- Cretaceous Geochemistry, stable isotopes, etc.
- Chalk of the North Sea Basin and adjacent areas (stratigraphy, micropalaeontology, diagenesis, exploration, biosteering, etc.)
- The K/T boundary

We would welcome suggestions of other sessions, for both lecture and poster.

4. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

There appear to be two options for traditional publication: *Cretaceous Research* or Special Publication of the Geological Society or The Micropalaeontological Society. This would only be done for publications/manuscripts **handed in** at the meeting in order to minimise publication delay.

5. ACCOMMODATION

Hotels are located all over the City, including some with views out over Plymouth Sound. There are a number of chains in the City, including Travelodge, Jurys Inn; Future Inns, Premier Travel Inns and Innkeepers Lodge. There are also a great many small hotels and Bed/Breakfast guest houses. There will be a number of places in student accommodation. We will give website addresses for all the accommodation in later circulars.



6. TRAVEL TO PLYMOUTH

The City is 300 km from London and one has the option of air travel, fast rail services and coach/bus. Trains take 3 hours to 3.5 hours from London while buses take ~4 hours. Plymouth City Airport has daily flights to London Gatwick and other destinations include Manchester, Glasgow, Newcastle, Cork and Dublin. There are a large number of European flights with “low cost airlines” that use Bristol (2 hours away) and Exeter (1 hour away). More details will be provided in later circulars.

7. FIELD EXCURSIONS

Potential areas for post-conference excursions include:

- **Dorset Coast World Heritage Site** – including the Cretaceous succession of Purbeck and the Jurassic/Cretaceous boundary succession of Durlston Bay
- **Isle of Wight** – including the full succession from freshwater Lower Cretaceous through to the higher levels of the Chalk succession (Campanian)



- **Sussex Coast and the Weald** – which includes famous sections in the Chalk at Eastbourne and Seaford Head, as well as the Wealden successions in Sussex and Kent.
- **Yorkshire area** – might be considered if sufficient interest, although this area is a long way north from Plymouth.

The mid-Conference (e.g., Wednesday pm)

- **Beer/Branscombe** – mid-Cretaceous succession in S. E. Devon
- **Dartmoor** – tourism sites
- **Eden Project** – Biome conservatories containing plants from the rainforests and the warm temperate regions of the world.
- **Torquay** - in the English Riviera Geopark there are many famous Devonian successions, some of which are best viewed from a boat.



8. IGCP PROJECTS

Current IGCP projects are welcome to use this Symposium for a meeting either during the conference, in advance of the main meeting or in the days after the meeting.

IGCP Cretaceous climates (Asia)

IGCP Cretaceous Red Beds

9. SOCIAL EVENTS



As well as the icebreaker we will hold a conference dinner in the middle of the week and there may be other events (e.g., visit to National Marine Aquarium, visit to the Eden Project, Plymouth Gin Distillery etc.). If there is sufficient demand we will organise

some additional visits for partners, etc. who may also come to the Symposium.



10. PLYMOUTH AND THE UNIVERSITY

Plymouth is the largest city in South West England with a population of 280,000. Situated between the Tamar and Plym rivers the City Centre is compact and ends abruptly on high cliffs (of Middle Devonian age) facing Plymouth Sound – a large natural harbour. The parkland overlooking Plymouth Sound, known as Plymouth Hoe, is a wide open space with beautiful views out over the sea. Outside the City boundary there is open countryside, with Cornwall to the west, the Dartmoor National Park to the north and the South Hams Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the east. Plymouth Sound is also designated a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive.

Plymouth is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city with a modern pedestrianised centre - right next door to the University campus and has a wide range of shops, art galleries, museums as well as bars, cafes, clubs and restaurants. There are outstanding centres for drama and music in Plymouth including the Theatre Royal and the Athenaeum.



The University of Plymouth began life as a Mechanics Institute in the 1820s and the Plymouth School of Navigation in 1862. These evolved into a larger Technical College and in 1992 it became the University of Plymouth and now has ~30,000 students. There is around 3000 staff and it is one of the largest employers in the City. The University Campus, which sits in the heart of the City Centre, now dominates the City skyline with a range of modern buildings. The Geosciences were taught initially as a subsidiary subject in the 1960s, gaining independence in the 1970s with the launch of a series of degree programmes. The geosciences staff are now a part of the School of Earth, Ocean and Environmental Sciences within the Faculty of Science. Over the past 35 years a large number of PhD students have graduated from the University having studied aspects of Cretaceous stratigraphy and micropalaeontology (see <http://www.research.plymouth.ac.uk/paleopalenv/>) although in recent years this has been balanced by equal numbers of students working on more recent environments and Jurassic stratigraphy.



Please e-mail this form to mhart@plymouth.ac.uk or Fax to (44) 1752 233117

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Name:.....**Title:**.....

Address:.....

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E-mail address:.....

Telephone:.....**Fax:**.....

Are you planning to attend the Symposium? **YES** **NO**

Are you interested in giving a paper (oral)? **YES** **NO**

Potential Title(s).....

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Are you thinking of submitting any paper for publication? YES NO

Are you interested in presenting a poster? YES NO

Potential Title(s).....

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Are you thinking of submitting any paper for publication? YES NO

Are you interested in one of the post-conference field excursions?

YES NO

If YES, indicate which is your first choice of location (Please Circle)

Dorset Isle of Wight Sussex/Kent Yorkshire

Are you a student registered for a degree? YES NO

Are you likely to stay in the following accommodation (Please Circle)

Hotel Bed & Breakfast Student Accommodation

Will you attend a conference dinner if organised? YES NO

Are you thinking of bringing a guest with you? YES NO

Have you any suggestions of themes for sessions or topics for discussion that you would like to see arranged?

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Any other queries?

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