



**Changing
palaeogeographical
and
palaeobiogeographical
patterns in the
Ordovician and
Silurian**

**University of Glasgow,
Scotland, UK
30 August – 1 September 2006**

Field Excursions 29 August & 2-4 September

THIRD CIRCULAR



The Conference

This is the main meeting for 2006 of IGCP 503 'Ordovician Palaeogeography and Palaeoclimate' which aims to develop a better understanding of the environmental changes that influenced the Ordovician biodiversification, the end-Ordovician extinction and the Silurian radiation (<http://sarv.gi.ee/igcp503/>). The project encourages the application of a range of disciplines to understand the Ordovician and early Silurian Earth System and the patterns of biotic change.

Conference Location

The conference will take place at Glasgow University (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/>) in the west end of this vibrant and friendly city (<http://www.glasgowguide.co.uk/index.shtml>). The area around the University includes a great variety of places to eat and drink, the botanic gardens and the City Museum & Art Gallery and is a short journey on the Underground from the city centre with its many cultural and gastronomic delights. The city has excellent rail and motorway links to the rest of the UK. The nearby international airports are served by a wide range of carriers, including budget airlines. Glasgow Airport is 7 miles (11 km) from the University and there is an airport bus to the city centre. Prestwick Airport is 22 miles (35 km) away and has a rail connection to the city centre.



Information on how to get to Glasgow and schematic maps of the city and the campus are given at: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/general/maps/> The conference will be centred on the Gregory Building; D2 on the campus map.

Visitors to Britain from outside the EU should check with their travel agent about visa requirements for the UK.

Oral and Poster sessions

The prime emphasis of the conference is on palaeogeography and palaeobiogeography, but contributions on other topics relevant to the aims of IGCP 503 are also on the programme. Posters will be on display throughout the two and half days (30 August – 1 September) of oral presentations which will comprise 10 thematic sessions covering:

- Palaeogeography
- Palaeobiogeography
- Ocean biogeochemistry
- Climate
- Sea-level change
- Biodiversity change in the plankton and benthos
- Palaeoecology and biodiversity change
- Stratigraphical correlation and carbon isotopes

These will include the invited keynote presentations:

- **Biogeochemical evolution of the Ordovician and Silurian oceans** - Matthew R. Saltzman, University of Ohio.
- **Ocean gateway closure, the Intertropical Convergence Zone, thermohaline circulation and glaciation: setting a new agenda for climate modelling in the later Ordovician** - Howard A. Armstrong, University of Durham
- **Planktotrophy and its impact on the Ordovician Biodiversification** - Alexander Nützel, University of Erlangen

There will also be a joint session on the palaeogeography of Circum-Atlantic plates and terranes during the Early Palaeozoic with our sister project, IGCP 497 'The Rheic Ocean: its origin, evolution and correlatives' (<http://www.snsd.de/igcp497/>) which will include the keynote presentation:

- **From rifting to collision: The history of the Rheic Ocean in a case study from the Saxo-Thuringian Zone (Bohemian Massif, Central European Variscides)** by Ulf Linnemann, Museum of Mineralogy & Geology, Dresden

The language of the conference will be English and there will be an open meeting outlining the recent activities of the Subcommittee on Ordovician Stratigraphy. If there is sufficient interest, a selection of papers from the conference will be published as rapidly as possible in a thematic set in an international journal.

Field excursions

Please note that these excursions are now full.

Whilst every effort will be made by the excursion leaders to ensure the safety of the party, participants take part in the excursions entirely at their own risk and must take responsibility for their own safety.

Pre-conference. – (Leaders Keith Ingham & Chris Burton (University of Glasgow), Euan Clarkson (University of Edinburgh) & Thijs Vandenbroucke (University of Ghent)). This one-day excursion (29 August) to the Southern Uplands will visit the Ordovician-Silurian boundary stratotype at Dob's Linn and the section at Hartfell Score that was one of the candidates for the base of the middle stage of the Upper Ordovician Series. The excursion will involve 6-7km of easy walking on hill tracks. A packed lunch will be provided.

Post-conference (Leaders: David Harper (Geological Museum, Copenhagen), Keith Ingham, Alan Owen & Chris Burton (University of Glasgow), Euan Clarkson (University of Edinburgh)). This three day excursion (2-4 September) will visit the classic Ordovician and Silurian successions of the Girvan District and the Pentland Hills. The first two days will be spent at Girvan where the locations to be visited require only short walks on farm tracks or along the rocky foreshore. The final day, in the Pentlands, will involve walking about 7km on tracks and hillsides. The party will return to Glasgow directly from the Pentlands and should arrive in the city in the early evening of 4 September. **Delegates should ensure that if they are not leaving that evening, they should book overnight accommodation in Glasgow.**

Social Events

The registration includes an icebreaker drinks reception, a civic drinks reception hosted by the City of Glasgow, a whisky tasting and a mid-conference half-day coach trip to Loch Lomond to enjoy the scenery and the complex geology at an Ordovician terrane boundary at the edge of the Scottish Highlands. The last of these will involve 4km of gentle walking.

Outline Programme

Monday 28 August 2006

Afternoon: Early registration and poster set-up for people attending the pre-conference excursion

Tuesday 29 August 2006

Pre-conference excursion to Dob's Linn and Hartfell Score

Afternoon: Main registration and poster set-up

Evening: Icebreaker drinks reception

Wednesday 30 August 2006

Registration, lectures & poster presentations; including joint lecture session with IGCP 497.

Evening: Civic drinks reception

Thursday 31 August 2006

Morning: Lecture & poster presentations

Afternoon: Coach trip to Loch Lomond

Evening: Conference dinner

Friday 1 September 2006

Lectures & poster presentations

Evening: Whisky tasting

Saturday 2 September 2006

Post-conference field excursion. Ordovician & Silurian of Girvan

Sunday 3 September 2006

Post-conference field excursion. Ordovician & Silurian of Girvan and travel to Edinburgh

Monday 4 September

Post-conference field excursion. Silurian of the Pentland Hills

Evening: Return to Glasgow

Meals

Buffet lunches for the three conference days in Glasgow and the conference dinner can be booked on the registration form. The west end of Glasgow provides a great variety of eating and drinking places at a wide range of prices for evening meals on the other days of the meeting. The city centre, 10 minutes away on the Underground provides an even greater choice of eateries and social attractions.

Accommodation

Delegates must book their own accommodation in Glasgow. **Please note that because of a large concert in the city, hotel accommodation is severely limited on the night of 1 September but there are still rooms available in the local student halls of residence.** Many participants have already booked into Queen Margaret Residence. The University's Conference & Visitor Service Office offers a free Booking Service for hotels and the student residences: (http://www.cvso.co.uk/accommodation/hotels/hot_intro.htm).

Climate

The average daytime temperature in Glasgow is around 12-14 °C in late August/early September although last year temperatures were several degrees warmer than this. The nights can be much cooler. Rain is always a possibility but bright sunny days are common at that time of year. Similar temperatures apply to the field excursion areas.

Insurance

All insurance is the responsibility of the participants. The conference organisers accept no liability for injury, illness, death or financial loss by anyone attending the conference or field excursions, whatever the cause. It is strongly recommended that overseas participants arrange their own travel, accident and health insurance.

Currency and Banking

As part of the UK, the currency in Scotland is GB pounds. Exchange rates vary, but at the time of preparing this circular (late June 2006), one pound (£1) is equivalent to about 1.46 euros and about 1.84 US dollars. The Scottish banks issue their own banknotes but English notes are equally valid here. There are several banks close to the University with facilities for cashing travellers cheques and converting foreign currency into pounds; all have automatic 24 hour cash machines. The banks themselves are closed on Sundays and, in most cases, on Saturdays.

Accompanying Persons

There is no formal programme planned for accompanying persons but their registration will entitle them to attendance at the icebreaker and Civic drinks receptions, the whisky tasting and the mid-conference coach trip. Lunches and the conference dinner can also be booked on the registration form.

Registration

The main registration deadline for the conference was 1 May 2006, but a form for late registration (**up to 7 July**) can be downloaded from the IGCP 503 website (<http://sarv.gi.ee/igcp503/>). Payment is by cheque in GB pounds drawn on a British bank and made payable to 'University of Glasgow'. If this presents major problems, please fax the completed registration form to the conference organiser **before the 7 July deadline** and he will arrange for an invoice to be sent to you to enable your bank to make an electronic transfer to the University of Glasgow. Payment by credit card is not possible.

Conference Scientific Committee: David Harper (Copenhagen, Denmark), Jun Li (Nanjing, China), Ulf Linnemann (Dresden, Germany), Axel Munnecke (Erlangen, Germany), Alan Owen (Glasgow, Scotland, UK), Rong Jiayu (Nanjing, China), Peter Sheehan (Milwaukee, USA), Thomas Servais (Lille, France) and Chen Xu (Nanjing, China)

Conference Organiser and Contact Address:

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