

Notes on Conference Structure
AGU Chapman Conference on the Great Plume Debate: The Origin and Impact of
LIPs and Hot Spots
28 August - 01 September 2005
Fort William, Scotland, UK

The Conference will comprise a series of oral sessions on individual subjects, e.g., seismology, temperature. Each session will be divided into two 1.5-hr sub-sessions, with 1/2 - 1/3 of the time allocated to discussion. Each first sub-session will contain the more plume-advocate talks and each second sub-session will focus more on alternative theories.

Everyone is urged to contribute vigorously to the discussion. People will be encouraged to take the podium to make points illustrated with 1-2 overhead transparencies. You are strongly urged to come equipped with all the transparencies you may need. It is unlikely to be convenient to rely on finding particular Powerpoint slides quickly in a discussion situation, so please bring transparencies.

The following equipment will be available:

- Macintosh G4 laptops & data projectors for Powerpoint presentations
- Overhead transparency projector
- Two screens
- Slide projector

I will also try to acquire a vertical teaching stand with a pad of white paper for sketching/writing, and sketching acetates for use with the overhead transparency projector.

For those of you allocated a talk, please bring your presentation on at least two media (datastick, CD, transparencies) in order to reduce the chances of a technical disaster. Please email Powerpoint presentations to me beforehand if you are ready in time. Those speakers in the first sub-sessions are allocated 20 mins, and those speakers in the second sub-sessions are allocated 15 mins (total for talk + questions).

For those of you allocated posters, the size should be 6' wide x 3' tall. Posters may be hung on the day they are scheduled, and kept up as long as their space is not required by subsequent days' posters.

The question of post-conference books will arise. It has been decided to produce a volume for Chemical Geology of review papers which will be co-ordinated by nominated lead authors who will get together groups of authors to contribute. We have also been invited to produce a second book which would comprise an AGU monograph and would contain regular individual papers. The meeting conveners will canvas opinion/enthusiasm levels for these books at the meeting.

Please recall that the primary objective of the meeting is to discuss whether plumes exist, whether alternatives are viable/better/worse, and how to test the plume and alternative theories. Please bear this in mind when preparing your talks/posters and during the discussion. For example, lengthy descriptions of observations at hotspots e.g. of rifts, geochemistry or earthquakes, are not relevant unless it is explained how they bear on discriminating the causative process of that hotspot, e.g., plume or passive rifting. Of particular importance are the concepts of which models are required by observations and which are merely permitted.

This is a more challenging and focused agenda than is set at many meetings, and the session conveners are briefed to keep proceedings on target.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if there is anything you wish to ask or suggest. Ian will be mostly away from his email from now until the meeting. I shall be in email contact until I leave for Rum 21st August, after which time I shall not pick up email until we return to the Ben Nevis Hotel the day before the meeting. During my absence on Rum, Melissa Ficek (mficek@agu.org) will deal with any issues that arise.

Best regards,

Gillian Foulger
for The Great Plume Debate meeting conveners