



63RD SYMPOSIUM ON VERTEBRATE PALAEONTOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE ANATOMY

24TH SYMPOSIUM OF PALAEONTOLOGICAL PREPARATION AND CONSERVATION WITH THE GEOLOGICAL CURATORS' GROUP

SOUTHAMPTON
(OCEAN AND EARTH SCIENCES, NATIONAL
OCEANOGRAPHY CENTRE):
31ST AUGUST TO
4TH SEPTEMBER 2015

THIRD CIRCULAR

The SVP/C and SPPC/GCG meetings are now **less than two months away**, and we hope you're all looking forward to it as much as we are in Southampton. This circular will provide, we hope, most of the information you will need about the conference. If you have any questions that aren't answered by this circular, then please contact the organisers via email: southampton2015@svpca.org or gareth.dyke@soton.ac.uk

NB: We will post a final circular with the finalised schedule once abstract submission has closed (July 24th) and abstracts have been reviewed (end-July).

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Application for Jones-Fenleigh Award: Thursday 23rd July (* we have extended this deadline from the last circular *)
- Abstract submission: Friday 24th July.
- **Registration: Friday 14th August (5pm BST)**

HOW TO BOOK AND SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR SPPC/SVP/C

- (1) Please go to <http://go.soton.ac.uk/6fp>
- (2) Complete the booking form. This will be directed back to SVP/C HQ
- (3) Soon after booking you will receive a login to the Abstract Submission site http://svpca.org/abstracts/submit_abstract.php

REGISTRATION, DOCK SECURITY AND ENTERING NOC

Because the National Oceanography Centre is inside an active port area and subject to strict security regulations, all delegates **must** wear their conference badges at all times (this is critical, especially when entering Dock Gate 4 and entering the NOC building itself).

For NOC security reasons, we must enforce a registration deadline for SPPC/SVPCA 2015 of August 14th at 5pm (BST). We would very much appreciate it if you could register as soon as possible to allow us to process conference badges and to follow NOC security procedures.

WHERE IS THE NOC?

Directions to NOC Southampton can be accessed via this link: <http://noc.ac.uk/about-us/maps-directions/southampton-centre> (for further detailed information, see below)

CONFERENCE UPDATES

SPPC/Geological Curators Group (GCG) registration and pre-conference networking will begin at 0800 at the NOC on August 31st. Please enter Dock Gate 4 and follow the signs to the NOC (straight on over the first small roundabout and then first left at the second; the NOC is first on the right). Talks for SPPC/GCG will begin at 0900 on the 31st of August in the Charnock Lecture theatre at the NOC and are expected to run until 1300.

The afternoon SPPC/GCG trip to the Hampshire County Council collections building will be via bus, leaving the NOC at 1400 (returning to the NOC for the SVPCA welcome reception at 1800).

The SVPCA welcome reception and pre-conference registration will be held on August 31st from 1800 at the NOC in the seminar room (follow the signs from the NOC main entrance). This event will run until 2100. Each delegate will be provided with two free alcoholic drink tickets (if you need more, these will be available for purchase); all other drinks and food will be free.

SVPCA talks will commence at 0830 on the 1st September (in the Charnock Lecture Theatre at NOC) and are expected to run until 1700-1730. **Talks will start at 0830 on each of the days of SVPCA.** Talks will be 15 minutes with 5 for questions (20 minute slots), with breaks for morning and afternoon coffee and lunch. Lunch will be available from the NOC canteen, or from a range of shops and cafes, within a 5-10 minute walk of the NOC building.

The evening of the 1st September will be a free social evening. We have reserved space in a local Wetherspoons (The Standing Order, Below Bar Southampton: <http://www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk/home/pubs/the-standing-order-southampton>). We have designated this pub as the SVPCA meeting point.

The evening of the 2nd September is our Annual Auction evening, to be held at the Seacity Museum, Southampton (<http://seacitymuseum.co.uk/>). This event will start at 1800 (NB Seacity is an approximate 15-20 minute walk from the NOC). Delegates will also have the chance to view the Dino Encounter exhibit currently at Seacity (<http://dinofest2015.co.uk/event/dino-encounter>), developed in collaboration with Southampton palaeontologists.

Materials for the auction are much appreciated. If you have a donation, or wish to discuss making a donation to this event (to raise money for the Jones Fenleigh Fund) then please email the auction co-ordinator Liz Martin (egmartin19@gmail.com)

The evening of the 3rd September will be the Conference Dinner, to be held at The Royal Thai Pier, Southampton water (<http://www.royalthaijpier.co.uk/>) from 1900. This is a buffet-style dinner with a range of menu options and free table wines. All other drinks for purchase.

POST CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP

The post-conference fieldtrip to the Isle of Wight will meet at 0800 at the RedJet fast ferry passenger terminal (very close to the NOC: <http://www.redfunnel.co.uk/ferry-travel/red-jet-service/>). We aim to visit a range of classic Isle of Wight Wealden localities along the south coast of the Island with a final stop at the Needles Park before returning to Southampton no later than 1800.

POSTERS

Space is available for the constant display of posters throughout SPCA (starting at the Welcome Reception). We prefer portrait A1 format, but any size/shape can be accommodated. Abstract submission for posters should be made via the booking site and SPCA site in the normal way.

EXHIBITORS?

We have ample space for conference exhibits/displays at the NOC. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity then please email the exhibits co-ordinators: Craig Fraser (cfras1204@gmail.com), Jeremy Lockwood (jlockwood156@aol.com), Alex Peaker (alexpeaker@hotmail.co.uk), or Kate Acheson (kateacheson@live.co.uk).

FINAL THOUGHTS ON A CONFERENCE SPECIAL EDITION IN *PeerJ*

We have been in discussion with the gold open-access journal *PeerJ* about the possibility of doing a conference special edition. They do 'Collections', a series of papers on a single topic presented on a 'Collection' page, and have previously done so for conference papers (see here: <https://peerj.com/collections>). These Collection pages are their equivalent of a 'special issue', but with some differences. Papers can be published either in *PeerJ* (the peer-reviewed journal) and/or in *PeerJ PrePrints* (the un-peer reviewed preprint server) and appear in a Collection. That option would allow the accepted SPCA abstracts to appear on the preprint server, and then be followed up with a peer-reviewed submission. Papers can be published at any time (i.e. as soon as they are accepted and typeset) and will appear immediately upon publication in the Collection. This way there is no 'special edition' delay waiting for all papers to become accepted. We are keen to hear peoples thoughts on this idea prior to, and during, the conference; if you have comments, or are interested in this option, please email Mark Young: marktyoung1984@gmail.com or Gareth Dyke: gareth.dyke@soton.ac.uk.

In addition to a 4th Circular containing final schedules for talks and further updates, we will post additional information on our twitter account (@sotonvertpalaeo). Hashtag for the conference (#SPCA2015). Please also take advantage of the SPCA 2015 Southampton facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/953708917972975/>

The SPPC/SPCA organising committee would like to thank the Palaeontological Association (www.palass.org), Siri Scientific Press (www.siriscientificpress.co.uk) and Palaeocast (www.palaeocast.com) for their support of this conference.



Looking forward to welcoming you to Southampton!

The SPPC/SPCA organising committee

GETTING TO SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Airport is situated approximately 4 miles (6.5 km) north-east of the city. There is a Uni-link bus service (U1C) that goes from the Airport to Dock Gate 4 (terminating outside the National Oceanography Centre). It runs every 15 minutes during the week, and every 20 minutes at weekends and public holidays. The bus service U1A runs in the opposite direction. Single tickets costs £2, while 'dayrider' tickets (unlimited travel on any Uni-link or Bluestar bus within the Southampton area during one day) costs £3.50. A full timetable can be found here: <http://www.buscms.com/BlueStar/uploadedfiles/pdfs/U1.pdf>

Southampton Central train station is the closest station to the city centre and the docks (where the National Oceanography Centre is located). The Uni-link bus services U1A and U1C, mentioned above, stop at Southampton Central. Those travelling to the National Oceanography Centre from here should take the U1C bus (found at bus stop SF, take the south side exit from the station). This will take you directly outside the National Oceanography Centre. Prices are the same as from the airport. This map shows where Central stations bus stops and taxi ranks are: <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/posters/SOU.pdf>

Southampton Parkway train station is next to the airport, and is close to airports bus and taxi stops.

Those coming from the Airport or Central train station can alternatively take a **taxi** to the National Oceanography Centre (although this will be more costly). Southampton Central station has numerous taxis at its taxi rank (see above link). Three operators that may accept advance bookings are: **RTS, +44 (0) 2380 66 66 66, Amalgamated, +44 (0) 2380 22 22 22, and Streamline, +44 (0) 2380 22 33 55**. **Checker Cars** is the official airport taxi service, and runs a 24-hour dedicated airport service. **Checker Cars** also have an advanced online booking system, found here: <http://www.checkercars.com/Southampton%20Airport%20Taxi.html>. Their telephone number is: **+44 (0) 2380 65 11 10**, and their email is: southampton@checkercars.com.

Travelling by **car**. Southampton is easily accessible by car from the north by the M3 motorway, and from the east or west by the M27 motorway. From the M3, at junction 14 exit and head towards A33/Southampton. From the M27, either exit at junction 3 or junction 5. Once in the city, follow signs to the city centre, and then to Dock Gate 4. For SatNav users, the National Oceanography Centre postcode is SO14 3ZH. We can arrange parking at the National Oceanography Centre during the day, if you need this **immediately** contact Dr Gareth Dyke with your name, which days you need, and your car make and registration number (as visitor parking permits must be applied for in advance). Unfortunately, due to on-going building work we cannot provide on-site overnight parking. Southampton City Council has a website with all city parking available: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/roads-parking/parking/default.aspx>. The nearest long-stay car parking to the National Oceanography Centre is **Gloucester Square** (Post Code: SO14 2GH), **College Street** (Post Code: SO14 3DZ) and **Crosshouse Hard** (Post Code: SO14 5GZ). *Please double-check if your hotel provides free parking, as parking in the city is paid between 8am-6pm, and is £2 overnight.*