

DGAG IS AN AFFILIATED MEMBER OF THE GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION

Website: <https://dorsetgeologistsassociation.org/>

DGAG Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups>

Dorset Geologists' Association Group (DGAG) is hosting a GEOFEST event on the Saturday 24 October 2026.

Theme: A festival celebrating Geoscience: Fossils, Rocks and Earth Science. A DGAG annual event that is a small part of October's two global events and;

→ **This year:** The Jurassic Coast is celebrating its 25th anniversary as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



→ International Geodiversity Day: with the 2026 theme “Geodiversity on Our Doorstep”. The theme is a chance to explore the geodiversity that lies just beyond our own threshold and asks people to recognise the geodiversity where they are from, where they live, and in their everyday lives

→ Earth Science week: organized by The Geological Society - "Critical Minerals for a Thriving Society." - how we find, extract, and use Earth's critical minerals responsibly. These are the about 50 essential minerals needed for modern tech, smartphones, renewable energy, and healthcare. It highlights how geoscientists manage the impact of mining on landscapes, water, and air.

Event Description: Selected DGAG members and invited guests will exhibit their collections/displays and share their Geoscience/Earth Science knowledge. Anyone is welcome to come and see what is on show. In addition, we welcome any Geoscience questions or puzzling rocks/fossils that people want advice on.

An initial list of contributors and their displays and will be updated on the DGAG website nearer the date of the event – but here is the list so far (Previous events summaries in links at end of this document)

Contributor Displays (DGAG members unless specified)

1. Phil James - DGAG and the Southampton Mineral and Fossil Society. Phil is promising a special display from his quite varied collection, including some large showstoppers! This is sure to be as good as the fascinating fossil corals and bivalves he showed during the last few years.
2. John Whicher – “Ancient Sea Floors” a not to missed first time GEOFEST display of some of John’s excellent collection with some 5-6 slabs illustrating ancient sea floors - what will you see?
3. Adrian Smith - for an excellent collection of Eocene age (about 56 to 33.9 million years ago) fossil Mollusca plus attractive fossil shark teeth, particularly so as give away treats for kids. – **To be confirmed**
4. Giles Droop – An important display and actual samples of the “hard rocks” – igneous and/or metamorphic, good for this year’s global earth science themes.

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5. Nick Nugent - Education Coordinator from The Etches Collection - information with leaflets and display material to demonstrate the educational aspects. Jurassic (Kimmeridge Clay about 148 to 157 million years old). This includes hands on activity puzzles using various fossil sea reptile vertebrae and teeth to place on ID photos of sea reptiles. Also, a "design-o-saur" puzzle/quiz and drawings of various Late Jurassic age sea creatures for colouring in with pencils – a popular activity for children and some adults too!
6. Chris Webb – Poster display - Late Jurassic age (Kimmeridge Clay: 148-157 million years old) microfossils and nannofossils as SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope – images from Jeremy Poole) and optical microscopic images.
7. Sheila Alderman/Kelvin Huff - and Dorset Building Stones group (Somerset and Dorset building stones) display and samples attract a lot of interest with hand lenses being used. Link to website - <https://www.dorsetbuildingstone.org/>
8. Roger and Janet Brown - always deliver an interesting display of fossils that gets a lot of attention
9. Richard Barrett - table with the guidebooks, guides, maps and booklets, DGAG polo shirt, DGAG displays, orders, etc.
10. Geoff Pettifer - DIGS (Dorset Important Geological Sites) group – **To be confirmed** previous years with a series of fold board displays of the important geological conservation work in the region.
11. John Scott will have a table or 2! - entertaining display of educational material on things DINOSAUR – plus!
12. Andy Steadman & Jackie Steadman - Good selection of various fossils from the Inferior Oolite of Middle Jurassic age (163-174 million year old). Plus, some neat small models of what the living creatures may have looked like in colour!
13. Bill Hinton - Wessex OUGS (Open University Geological Society) – potential display on critical minerals.
14. Geoff Rowland: Somerset & Ham Hill Geology - Stand will have a few hand specimens, leaflets and a rolling PowerPoint on a screen and panels showing regional and Ham Hill geology will be at the venue.
15. Jacqueline Bainbridge: Bournemouth Natural Science Society - Stand will have small table selling some BNSS rocks, minerals and fossils.

Possible Contributors ? – To be confirmed

Beaminster Museum: Bid and Alistair - Horn Park Quarry National Nature Reserve?

Dorset Council: Sam Scriven Principal Officer - World Heritage

Time: The GEOFEST will start at 10.00 am finish 3.00 pm

For Contributors and volunteers the hall we be open from about 9am for set up etc.

Entry Cost: Free

Booking: There is no need to book.

Event Contact: DGAG events at email: events@dorsetgeologistsassociation.org

Note: Food or drink **is not** being supplied at the venue, but there are plenty of nearby cafés etc.

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Venue: The main Hall at the United Church, 49/51 Charles Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EE (postal address and rear entrance to church buildings). South Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1BY (front entrance to church 29 South St, Dorchester DT1 1BY)
Entrance can be from either of the 2 entrances: (See map at the end)

- Perhaps easiest for pedestrians will be from the alleyway entrance on the South Street pedestrian zone where we will have a colourful advertising board (image below) pointing the way to the GEOFEST. Exact location using what 3 words: <http://whips.cooked.denser> (link to free app <https://what3words.com/about>).
- Otherwise make your way around to the Dorchester Library and enter from Charles Street opposite to the Dorchester Library and car parks.

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References & Website links:

1. Previous event GEOFEST October 2024

https://dorsetgeologistsassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/1.18-Writeup-for-DGAG-Geofest-26OCT_2024.pdf

2. Previous GEOFEST 18 Oct 2025

https://dorsetgeologistsassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/1.39-Writeup-for-DGAG-Geofest-18OCT_2025_draft4.pdf

3. Dorset Geologists Association Group (DGAG) website

<https://dorsetgeologistsassociation.org/>

4. DGAG Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1706340262955772>

5. International Geodiversity Day website

<https://www.geodiversityday.org/>

6. Earth Science week website

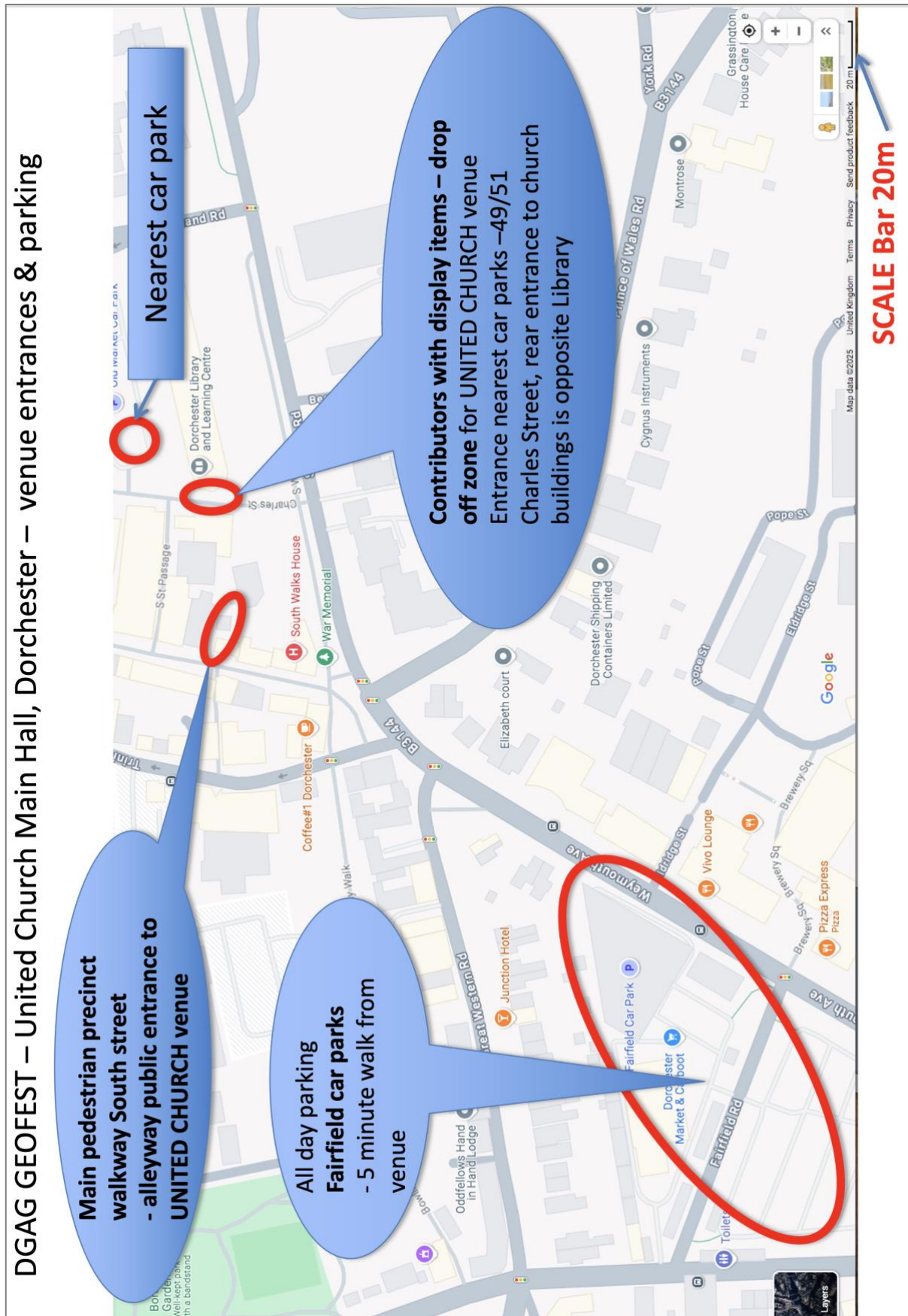
<https://www.earthsciweek.org/>

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Location Map



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Rear Entrance of Venue, Loading Zone and Nearest Carpark

