

Geoscience in South West England

Preparation of figures for publication

When submitting manuscripts and figures on a CD ROM, please leave the CD "open" i.e. create a multisession CD so that late-stage editorial changes can be made.

General Points

- The cost of reproducing colour figures is prohibitively expensive and therefore all figures will be reproduced in greyscale. Draft figures so that they are both legible and unambiguous when reproduced in greyscale.
- ***Do not embed diagrams in the manuscript.*** They do not reproduce well and cannot be extracted from the manuscript without an ***unacceptable*** loss in quality
- Keep figures and captions separate; provide a separate file containing figure captions or place them at the end of the manuscript text.
- Please ensure that all figures are of good quality - if the images look blocky or fuzzy on screen, the printed image quality will almost certainly be poor.
- Captured images (e.g. screen dumps) are typically of low resolution (commonly 72 dpi). Images should be saved or exported from within the package that they were created as they are usually much better quality than images that have been cut and pasted into other documents. However, avoid proprietary file formats.
- All text should be >2 mm high when reduced to the desired image size.

Bitmap images (i.e. scanned diagrams and photographs)

- For publication, photographs should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi ***at the intended size of reproduction*** whilst bitmaps containing straight lines or text should have a resolution of 400 dpi or more. When in doubt, provide higher resolution images - they can always be re-sampled at a later date.
- When using digital cameras, please ensure that the lowest compression setting is used.
- Bitmaps should be saved as a greyscale tagged image file format (TIF files). Although TIF files can be quite large, two compression methods are commonly integrated: "pack bits" and "LZW" compression. If available, use pack bits compression for images with variable shading

(i.e. photographs) and LZW compression for images with large areas of a single shade (such as line diagrams). Other image file formats such as .JPG (except those from digital cameras) and .GIF should be avoided as the in-built compression can result in visual artefacts and poor image quality - especially noticeable with line diagrams.

Vector line diagrams (e.g. Corel Draw and Adobe Illustrator files)

- Pattern fills are commonly corrupted during the publishing process; please provide a .TIF file at a resolution of 600 dpi as well as the original file (LZW compression can dramatically reduce the file size).
- Do not use lines of "hairline" width as these do not reproduce well.
- Line diagrams should be drafted at approximately the same size as the desired final copy as resizing can cause problems.