

Dr Alastair Ruffell - Queens University Belfast



Dr Alastair Ruffell has been a pioneer in forensic geoscience for at least 20 years. His energy, enthusiasm and commitment to forensic geoscience and geology has been responsible for many of the developments in the field, fundamentally pushing forward boundaries in the development of strategies for the search and recovery of forensically important items.

After PhD studies at the University of Birmingham he carried out postdoctoral work at Imperial College London, gaining a lectureship at The Queen's University, Belfast and in 2016 was Visiting Professor at the University of Messina. He is a leading consultant for law enforcement organisations worldwide on improving procedures for collecting evidence at crime scenes and has undertaken over 120 investigations into criminal and humanitarian cases, including assisting in the search for the so-called 'IRA Disappeared' victims.

His significant contributions to the geoscience community include co-founding the Forensic Geoscience Specialist Group of the Geological Society in 2006 (with Dr Laurance Donnelly), of which he continues to be an active committee member. His more than 140 published research articles, 20 book chapters and two seminal monographs on forensic and environmental geoscience demonstrate the breadth and depth of his contribution to the field, as does his active involvement in outreach activities promoting the role of geology for environmental and forensic applications. His collaborations across the globe with forensic geoscience practitioners is testimony to the very significant esteem with which he is held globally.