

Geosci. Commun. Discuss., author comment AC1
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Reply on RC1

Jessica H. Pugsley et al.

Author comment on "Virtual field trips utilizing virtual outcrop: construction, delivery and implications for the future" by Jessica H. Pugsley et al., Geosci. Commun. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/gc-2021-37-AC1>, 2022

The intention of this contribution was to present a novel and timely case study of a Virtual Field Trip (VFT) using virtual outcrop at the forefront of the sophisticated technology you describe. Our primary purpose was to provide information on how we designed, delivered and evaluated the VFTs. We did not intend to present the benefits of VFTs in general, though instead document the findings of this specific case study. However, it is apparent that this was not fully clear, and our contribution requires some modification to rectify this.

Thank you for your detailed review and highlighting relevant references we had not included. We will incorporate these references where appropriate. Since submission another manuscript has been submitted to *SPE* (Buckley *et al.*, in review, see below), which focuses on the building part of the same and similar VFTs examined in our manuscript. We agree a change of scope and suggest this contribution focuses more clearly on the use of Virtual Outcrops within VFTs (our case study), and as suggested by Reviewer 3, comparing our case study with existing literature (including many of the references you highlight) in the discussion. We anticipate this will resolve some of the issues you highlight. This change will clarify and refine our conclusions, which appears to be the main issue you highlight.

We will also discuss the flaws in post-course evaluation and self-reporting, adding appropriate references to that effect. We understand your comments and agree the Student Course Evaluation Forms data does likely reflect on the nature of the pandemic and moreover the lower expectations of students prior to the course. We argue that there remains value in this data with better scope and staging, as highlighted by reviewers 3 and 4. The learning outcomes for the VFTs, and how we implemented them in their design, will be made clearer.

Ethics approval was indeed granted from the University of Aberdeen, which we shall state.

Again, we thank you for your review, which we are certain will help strengthen this contribution.

On behalf of authors, Jessica Pugsley (jessica.pugsley@abdn.ac.uk)

Refence: *Buckley S., Howell J., Naumann N., Pugsley J. Vanbiervliet J., Ringdal K., Lewis C., Tong B., Chmielewska M., Virtual Field Trips: Experience from a Global Pandemic and Beyond., Society of Petroleum Engineers Norway Subsurface Conference, in review.*