



Is the ash distribution from Eyjafjallajökull unique? Tephrochronological perspectives on volcanic ash deposition across Northern Europe

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The dispersal of large ash plumes from the Eyjafjallajökull eruption in April 2010 has generated widespread interest due largely to their impact on air transport and reports of ash-fall throughout Europe. Some reports allude to this as an unprecedented event, while this may be true in respect to the level of disruption caused, there is geologic evidence that such events having occurred many times before. The RHOXTOR research group, a joint initiative between Royal Holloway University of London and Oxford University, is dedicated to the study of past volcanic ash falls in Europe, and holds records of their sources, distributions and ages spanning the past 50,000 years and more. RHOXTOR specialise in linking proximal and distal ash deposits in order to provide more comprehensive records of ash fall. These data have the potential to provide crucial information on recurrence intervals of volcanic activity, and patterns of dispersal of large ash plumes at continental scales. Delimiting these deposits is likely to be critical information for the understanding of future ash distribution and the potential for travel disruption across Europe.