



**TROPICAL
ECOLOGY
GROUP**

Society for Tropical Ecology [gtö]



**BRITISH
ECOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

Unifying Tropical Ecology: Strengthening collaborative science

**A Joint Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö) and
the British Ecological Society Tropical Ecology Group
(BESTEG).**

9-12 April 2019, Edinburgh UK

Delegates' Pre-symposium Information Pack



#UTE2019

<https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/events/ute2019/>

ABOUT EDINBURGH

The city of Edinburgh is steeped in history. Scotland's capital seamlessly blends old and new, providing visitors with the perfect destination to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of a diverse and vibrant country. There are a wide variety of attractions throughout the city, and you are only a short trip away from the Scottish countryside and the coast. Edinburgh has a medieval Old Town and elegant Georgian New Town with gardens and neoclassical buildings. Looming over the city is Edinburgh Castle, home to Scotland's crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish rulers. Arthur's Seat is an imposing peak in Holyrood Park with sweeping views, and Calton Hill is topped with monuments and memorials.

For more information, visit: www.visitscotland.com

TRAVELLING TO EDINBURGH

Edinburgh offers visitors easy transport links into and across the city. An extensive bus service combined with rail links, taxis and the arrival of trams provides plenty of travel options.

By air

Edinburgh Airport lies 8km to the west of Edinburgh and is the third biggest city in the UK in terms of airport passenger numbers, following London and Manchester. Visitors can get to and from the airport by bus, car, tram and taxi. Subject to the time of day, the average journey time can take approximately 25 minutes.

A regular airport bus is operated by Airlink 100 and runs every 10 minutes, 24 hours a day. Tickets can be bought at the airport information desk for approximately £8 return, at the bus stop, from the driver or online. Full airport bus details are available to view at: <http://www.EdinburghAirport.com/transport-links/buses-and-coaches>

Edinburgh Airport also has a tram service, with the tram stop located just a short walk from the departures and arrivals areas. Fares between the airport and the city centre cost £8.50 for a return (and the return ticket is open). Make sure you buy the ticket before you board at the tram stop, where you can find ticket vending machines. You can also buy your tram ticket in advance here: <https://www.edinburghticket.co.uk/edinburgh-airport>

There is also a Visit Scotland desk in the airport if you need any other travel assistance upon arrival.

By rail

Edinburgh's two major railway stations, Waverley and Haymarket, operate regular services to other parts of Scotland and the UK. The main station is Edinburgh Waverley which is located in the city centre, sandwiched between the New and Old towns. Edinburgh is easy to reach by train and the Great North Eastern Railway line is the fastest intercity railway in

the UK, with a journey time of just under 5 hours between Edinburgh (Waverley) and London's King's Cross.

Virgin Trains East Coast provide links to Edinburgh from London, Newcastle, York, Leeds and Aberdeen. More information can be found at www.VirginTrainsEastCoast.com. Virgin Rail also operates a service on the west coast from London via Preston, Birmingham and Coventry, with information available here www.VirginTrains.co.uk/routes-stations/edinburgh%20waverley/#routesFinder

ScotRail's Caledonian Sleeper is a popular overnight service operating between Edinburgh and London (Euston) every night. Scotrail operates a full schedule of trains throughout Scotland and the UK. Visit Scotrail's website for full details: www.ScotRail.co.uk

Other useful links for railway services are www.NationalRail.co.uk and www.TravelineScotland.com

By car

An extensive road network links Edinburgh to the rest of Scotland and UK making access to the capital easy by car. Newcastle is approximately a 2.5 hour drive from Edinburgh, and from Manchester and Birmingham it would be around a 4 and 5.5 hour drive, respectively. If you are looking for parking spots, you can find some here

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20276/parking_spaces/507/find_parking_bays. Useful tools to plan your journey by road are <http://www.theaa.com/route-planner/index.jsp> and <http://www.rac.co.uk/route-planner>

By coach

Edinburgh has a range of coach stations available, including Hanover Street/Rose Street (about a 20 minute walk from Appleton Tower), Queensferry Street (about a 25 minute walk from Appleton Tower), and Stewart's Melville (about a 45 minute walk, or a 15 minute drive from Appleton Tower). Edinburgh is accessible by coach from a number of locations across the UK, including London, Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, and Manchester. You can book coaches via the National Express website at www.nationalexpress.com or through the Megabus website at <https://uk.megabus.com>

TRAVELLING WITHIN EDINBURGH AND TO THE VENUE

Venue addresses:

Appleton Tower: 11 Crichton Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9LE

McEwan Hall: Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG

By train

Edinburgh Waverley station is about a 15 minute walk away from Appleton Towers, while Edinburgh Haymarket is around a 30 minute walk away. Trains operate about every 3 minutes between the two stations and the journey takes 5 minutes.

By car

Although driving to Edinburgh is relatively easy, driving within Edinburgh can be difficult. There is no parking on main roads into the city from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday. On-street parking is controlled by self-service ticket machines from 8.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday, and costs from £2.20 to £4.20 per hour, with a 30 minute to 4 hour maximum. The Nicolson Square Car Park is only a 2 minute walk from Appleton Tower and costs £9 for up to 5 hours <https://nicolson-square-car-park.business.site>

By bus

An excellent bus service transports residents and visitors across the city throughout the day and night, including a regular 24 hour service to Edinburgh Airport operated by Airlink 100 (www.EdinburghAirport.com/transport-links/buses-and-coaches). Visitors can plan their journey within Edinburgh with www.LothianBuses.com. Tickets can be bought directly from the driver, and are valid for one journey only. You will need exact change. You can also purchase a special day ticket, which provides unlimited bus travel around Edinburgh for twenty four hours. You can also opt for the open-top tour buses that take you sightseeing across the city, which you can book here <https://edinburghtour.com>

By tram

Wifi-friendly trams run from York Place in the city centre to Edinburgh Airport in a journey time of approximately 35 minutes. Wheelchair accessible, ramps and lifts are provided at the stops along the route. For ticket prices and to plan your journey visit www.EdinburghTrams.com. The closest stops to Appleton Tower are Princes Street or St. Andrew Square, both of which are approximately a 20 minute walk away from the venue.

By taxi

There are over 1,000 black cabs that can be hailed in the street or picked up from one of the taxi ranks within the city centre. The majority of taxis can carry up to 5 passengers and are accessible for wheelchairs.

City Cabs can be hailed in the street or pre booked on 0131 228 1211 and www.citycabs.co.uk

Central Radio Cars: 0131 229 2468 <https://www.centralradiocars.com>

By bike

Edinburgh is regarded as one of the most bike-friendly cities in the UK. Edinburgh's new cycle hire scheme offers visitors a unique way to explore the capital in a simple and affordable way (£3 per day). The network of cycle hire locations across the city is being continually expanded, and the nearest hire station is located next to McEwan Hall in Bristo Square, containing 11 bikes (edinburghcyclehire.com). You need to have the app to take part, but if you don't have a smartphone and still want to cycle, you can hire a bike from BikeTrax (about a 20 minute walk from Appleton Tower) at <https://www.biketrax.co.uk> from £20 a day. You can also hire bikes, electric bikes, and tandem bikes from Cycle Scotland (a 10 minute walk from Appleton Tower) from <https://www.cyclescotland.co.uk/bike-rental.html>. There are also a number of bike tours available at Edinburgh Bike Tours

(<http://www.edinburghbiketours.co.uk/>) but if you would rather just travel from A to B you can plan your own route here http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20087/cycling_and_walking/1480/plan_your_own_route

By foot

Edinburgh is a beautiful and reasonably compact city, making it a great place to explore on foot. You can wander along the famous Royal Mile that runs through the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town, and drop into the many shops, pubs, and cafes coming off it, which you can find out more about here <http://www.royal-mile.com/>. You can also plan your walking route, and explore themed walking routes, at <http://walkit.com/>, or book onto one of the walking tours <https://www.neweuropetours.eu/edinburgh-walking-tours>

THINGS TO DO IN EDINBURGH

As well as vibrant areas like the Royal Mile and Grassmarket, visitors can enjoy the history of the city at the looming Edinburgh Castle, the green spaces at the Meadows and botanical gardens, and the incredible drinks available at the whisky and gin distilleries. School holidays mean that the 8 - 12 April will be a busy week at many venues, but this also means that there are often extra events for children available. Use www.VisitScotland.com to find out about events and restaurants.

Camera Obscura & World of Illusions (*Open Mon-Thurs 09:30 – 19:00, Fri and Sun 09:30 – 20:00, Sat 09:30 – 21:00*)

This is the oldest purpose built visitor attraction in Edinburgh, and is filled with illusions, tricks, puzzles, hands-on experiences, unbelievable effects, and the best rooftop views of the city. Suitable for all ages <https://www.camera-obscura.co.uk>

Our Dynamic Earth (*Open 10:00 – 18:00*)

An interactive educational centre about the history of planet earth. During the symposium week there are special activities for the school holidays www.dynamicearth.co.uk

Dino's Dynamos – Wild Wednesdays – Bugs and Beasties (*Wednesday 10 April, 10:00 – 14:30, Age 6 – 14*)

£15 per child per day. Sessions must be booked in advance.

Edinburgh International Science Festival

Running throughout the symposium week at various venues around the city.

www.sciencefestival.co.uk

Edinburgh Castle (*Open 09:30 – 17:00*)

Iconic Scottish royal castle dominating the city centre at the top of the Royal Mile. A visit takes several hours, with lots to see for everyone. Tickets are expensive, but if you see one Scottish castle, it should probably be this one! www.edinburghcastle.scot

National Museum of Scotland (*Open 10:00 -17:00*)

Wonderful, family friendly and free! The museum traces the history of Scotland and its cultural impact on the world. www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland

Walk along the Water of Leith

If you want to walk through the heart of the city this is a fascinating and flat walk along the canal. www.waterofleith.org.uk

Arthur's Seat and the Salisbury Crags

A classic Edinburgh experience for those with plenty of energy to burn off. Easy to walk and you can't get lost! It can be very windy and wet at the top, so wrap up and take good walking shoes and waterproofs. At the top - view the whole city and learn about central Scotland's volcanic past.

PLACES TO EAT IN EDINBURGH

MUMS Great Comfort Food (*4A Forrest Rd*)

Traditional, hearty British fare with gourmet sausages, served up in a retro-style diner. Child friendly and only a 6 minute walk from Appleton Tower.

The Elephant House (*George IV Bridge*)

Where JK Rowling wrote Harry Potter, so a huge must for most kids (and adults!). Serving classic lunchtime meals and only a 6 minute walk from Appleton Tower.

Spoon (*6A Nicolson St*)

Cool and convivial café/brunch spot, serving soups, sandwiches, coffee and cake alongside a diverse evening bistro menu. Vegan options available and only a 5 minute walk from Appleton Tower.

Kalpna (*2-3 St Patricks Square*)

Established Indian vegetarian/vegan dining in striking, exotic decor with buffet, thali and lunch deals, and only a 4 minute walk from Appleton Tower.

Paradise Palms (*41 Lothian Street*)

American diner-style vegetarian dining with an on-site record store, bar & hangout. A 4 minute walk from Appleton Tower, with vegan options available.

Monteiths (*61 High St*)

Intimate, refined spot for seasonal Scottish cuisine and cocktails in a smart, traditional decor. An 11 minute walk from Appleton Tower.

REGISTRATION TIMES

Tuesday 09 April	09:00 – 17:00
Wednesday 10 April	08:30 – 17:00
Thursday 11 April	08:30 – 14:00

PRESENTER GUIDELINES

For those of you presenting either a talk or a poster, [please read the guidelines](#) on the symposium website carefully before preparing your presentation.

JOINT BES/GTÖ – UNIFYING TROPICAL ECOLOGY | MEETING OVERVIEW | 8 – 12 APRIL 2019 | EDINBURGH UK

09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00	23:00
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Day	09:00 – 10:00	10:00 – 10:30	10:30 – 12:30	12:30 – 14:00	14:00 – 16:00	16:00 – 17:30	18:00 – 20:30	19:00 – Late
Tuesday 9 April	Registration & Coffee	Opening Plenary	Lunch	Parallel Sessions	Poster Session	Welcome Reception		
Wednesday 10 April	09:00 – 10:00 Plenary	10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break	10:30 – 12:30 Parallel Session	12:30 – 14:00 Lunch	14:00 – 16:00 Parallel Sessions	16:00 – 17:30 Poster Session & gtö AGM		19:00 – Late Conference Dinner & Ceilidh*
Thursday 11 April	09:00 – 10:00 Plenary	10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break	10:30 – 12:30 Parallel Session	12:30 – 14:00 Lunch	14:00 – 16:00 Workshops	16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break		
Friday 12 April	Post Conference Tours*							

* Extra charge to attend these events – please select when registering



SOCIAL EVENTS

Pre-Symposium Social (*Monday 08 April, 19:00*)

St Andrews Brewing Co. Potterrow Pub

A space has been booked at the [St Andrews Brewing Co. Potterrow Pub](#) on Monday, before the start of the Symposium programme, for those that arrive ahead of the conference. This is an informal chance to meet other delegates. Food and drink is to be purchased independently by delegates. The pub is a 1 minute walk from Appleton Tower at 32 – 34 Potterrow, EH8 9BT.

Welcome Reception (*Tuesday 09 April, 18:00 – 20:30*)

Edinburgh Royal Botanical Gardens

Join us at the beautiful Royal Botanical Gardens for the Welcome Reception! This is a drinks and canapes reception only, therefore delegates will be required to organise their own evening meal. We recommend delegates bring photo ID to this event as alcohol will be served. **Delegates must wear registration badges in order to gain entry.**

There are 3 ways that delegates can get to the Royal Botanical Gardens:

Walking

From Appleton Tower it takes about 35 minutes to walk to the gardens.

Bus

The number 8 bus goes direct from Surgeons' Hall, South Side Bus stop, EH8 9BX (outside Mosque Kitchen). This takes 25 minutes and costs around £1.50. Please bring exact change for the bus.

Taxis

There are over 1,000 black cabs that can be hailed in the street or picked up from one of the taxi ranks within the city centre. The majority of taxis can carry up to 5 passengers and are accessible for wheelchairs.

City Cabs: 0131 228 1211

Central Radio Taxis: 0131 229 2468

Poster Sessions (*Tuesday 09 and Wednesday 10 April, 16:00 – 17:30*)

McEwan Hall

Both Poster Sessions will take place at McEwan Hall and will include drinks and light snacks.

Fun Run! (*Wednesday 10 April, 07:30 – 08:15*)

Meeting point: McEwan Hall Pavilion Entrance

Get your running shoes on and join us on a 5k fun run around beautiful Edinburgh! Meet BES Scottish Policy Officer, Maggie Keegan, outside McEwan Hall, the glass entrance by

07:20 for a (max) 45-minute run, giving enough time to get back and ready to hear a great plenary from Kim McConkey. All levels welcome!

Conference Dinner (*Wednesday 10 April, 19:00 – late*)

The Hub, 348 – 350 Castlehill, EH1 2NE

The Conference Dinner takes place on Wednesday evening at The Hub. This is a 10 minute walk from Appleton Tower and is a ticketed event. All tickets must be purchased in advance of the dinner. If you have any questions, please ask a member of BES staff on the Registration Desk. **Delegates must wear registration badges and bring photo ID in order to gain entry.**

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Social Media

All attendees are encouraged to join the discussion via social media, so please use the hashtag [#UTE2019](#) and follow [@BritishEcolSoc](#) on Twitter to ensure you are part of the conversation.

We understand that some people will not want their research broadcast. We respect that, so have created a 'do not share' image (below) for people to download on our website to add to their poster/talk. We expect that fellow attendees will also respect such a request. We will explain the meaning of the 'do not share' image on social media, our website and in the printed programme. If people do not include the 'do not share' image on their presentation, we will assume they are happy for their research to be publicised openly.



Photography

There will be a photographer present at the event. Photographs taken may be used for promotional purposes; if you have any concerns or queries regarding this, please come and see us at the Registration Desk.

Internet

There is complimentary WiFi for all delegates at both Appleton Tower and McEwan Hall.

Please connect to the **McEwan Hall** WiFi by searching for 'Optify' and enter your email address and phone number.

For **Appleton Tower** please search for 'Central' and use the logins provided to you at the Registration desk.

Food & Refreshments

Your registration includes tea/coffee and lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and a welcome drinks reception on Tuesday evening at the Royal Botanical Gardens. All daytime catering will be available in the in the McEwan Hall Foyer 2 – 4 during the designated breaks on all 3 days.

Badges

For security and regulation purposes, please ensure you wear your registration badge at all times throughout the venue. **You must also wear your registration badge to the welcome reception at the Botanical Gardens and the Conference Dinner at The Hub in order to gain entry.**

Mobile Phones

As a courtesy to speakers and other delegates, we ask that all mobile phones and electronic devices be changed to **silent mode** before entering any session.

Cloakroom

McEwan Hall Foyer 5 is available to store any coats and bags throughout the Symposium. This is free of charge.

Contemplation Room/Prayer Room

There is a quiet room located in McEwan Hall, Robing Room 1, for anyone who wishes to have some time out to think, reflect or pray.

Family Room

There will be a family room in McEwan Hall Foyer 1. This room will contain a microwave, fridge and kettle. There will be seating and an area for those that need to breastfeed or express. Please feel free to bring toys to use in this area. It is your responsibility to ensure children are accompanied by an adult at all times.

Lost Property

Please hand in lost property to the Registration Desk, where it will be made available for collection.

Smoking Policy

Please note that smoking is not permitted inside the building.

First Aid

Should you require first aid assistance during the Symposium, please contact a BES team member who will be able to guide you to the appointed first aider.

Venue Security & Liability

In the event of an emergency, security and venue staff will guide you to safety. The weekly fire alarm test is on Friday, which will not affect the meeting and therefore any alarms should be considered the real thing.

Insurance & Liability

The Symposium organisers will not accept liability for personal injury or loss/damage to property/belongings of participants or accompanying persons, before, during or following the Symposium, or their stay in Edinburgh. It is therefore recommended that participants arrange their own personal health, accident and travel insurance.

Currency

Edinburgh uses the Pound Stirling.

Electricity Voltage

220 - 240 Volts, Type G electrical plug with three rectangular prongs.

Time Zone

Edinburgh is currently within BST (British Summer Time).

Plenary Lectures

All Plenary lectures will be delivered in McEwan Hall. Questions to plenary speakers will be asked via Twitter.

Disclaimer

All the best endeavours will be made to present the programme advertised. However, the BES and its partners reserve the right to alter or cancel, without prior notice, arrangements, timetables, plans or other items relating directly or indirectly to the Symposium, for any cause beyond its reasonable control. The BES and its partners are not liable for any loss or inconvenience caused as a result of such cancellation. Delegates are advised to take out their own travel insurance and extend their policy to cover personal possessions as the BES and its partners do not cover individuals against cancellation of bookings or theft or damage to belongings. Tours run by third parties may be subject to cancellation should the minimum numbers not be achieved.

TOURS – THURSDAY 11 AND FRIDAY 12 APRIL

All tours are now fully booked and there are no tickets available at the meeting.

Thursday 11 April

History walk in old town

Please note there will be two groups either starting at **19:00 (MT14-5190259)** or **20:00 (MT14-5190259)**. Please refer to the conference noticeboard to select your group. Arrive at the meeting point below **10 minutes before the start to greet your guide**. When you arrive give the reference number above and say you are part of the British Ecological tour under

the name Amy. **Meeting point:** Mercat Cross, next to St Giles' Cathedral, just by the Royal Mile.

Whiskey & Gin tasting

The gin and whisky tasting will be run by Villeneuve Wines at held at the Drummond Street Geography Building on from **18:30 – 20:00**. Please meet at the entrance to the [Geography Building](#) just **before 18:30**.

Friday 12 April

Pentland Hills Hike

Meet Kyle Dexter in front of Appleton Tower at **09:30**, where transport will take you to the Pentland Hills. Delegates should be prepared for potentially cold and wet weather, and therefore bring waterproof jacket and trousers, and also appropriate footwear for hiking in mud. Delegates should also bring a bag for carrying extra warm clothing, water and a packed lunch, with the packed lunch being provided. We plan to be back to Edinburgh by 17:00 at the latest.

Scottish Sea Bird Centre

Bookings for this group have all agreed to take the boat trip for an additional £15, **this can be paid on the day**. Ensure you wear warm and practical clothing.

Meet Kate Abernethy at 08:00 in front of the 'Bagel shop' at the Waverley Station **for the 8.16 train, so don't be late!**

The boat is from 09.30 – 10.30 and the visit thereafter. Return on the 12.29 train, arriving at 13:00 to Edinburgh Waverley (or the 11.27 arriving at noon if preferred).

Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh

The tour will start at **10:00**. There will be a 2 hour tour of the garden, followed by a 1 hour tour of the herbarium. You are then free to explore the garden and glasshouses and gift shop by yourselves. Please meet Aline Finger **10 minutes before the start time** at the meeting point below. **Meeting point:** In the reception at the East Gate Entrance (on Inverleith Row).

Ochil Hills and Wallace Monument

Meet Daisy Dent in front of Appleton Tower at **09:30**, where transport will take you to Ochil Hills. Delegates should be prepared for potentially cold and wet weather, and therefore bring waterproof jacket and trousers, and also appropriate footwear for hiking in mud. Delegates should also bring a bag for carrying extra warm clothing, water and a packed lunch, with the packed lunch being provided. We plan to be back to Edinburgh by 17:00 at the latest. We plan to be back to Edinburgh by 17:00 at the latest.

CONTACT

If you have any questions leading up to the symposium please do not hesitate to get in touch with BES Grants & Events Officer, [Siri McDonnell](#).