

**7<sup>th</sup> BRITAE Project Management Meeting / Steering Committee Meeting  
& 5<sup>th</sup> International Workshop, 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Organised by the University of Huddersfield and University of Central Lancashire, UK**

## Joining Instructions

### 1. Purpose of the event

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Building Agroecosystems Resilience in Asia will be conducted as part of the capacity-building activity of the project BRITAE. The project aims to develop a joint curricular module on building resilience in tropical agroecosystems in Sri Lankan Universities to increase their capacity to continually modernise, enhance the quality and relevance of education of students to the global market needs, and ensure international cooperation.

### 2. Meeting hosts

A nine-day training programme is organised by the University of Huddersfield (HUD) and the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) in the UK. The event will consist of several guest lectures, dissemination activities, and technical visits to some identified agricultural sites in the UK. During the visit to the UK, the Sri Lankan scientists and educators will be able to understand the state-of-the-art approaches in agriculture with a view to observing good practices and opportunities for knowledge transfer.



#### University of Huddersfield



The University of Huddersfield is a public research university located in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, England. It has been a University since 1992, but has its origins in a series of institutions dating back to the 19th century. It has made teaching quality a particular focus of its activities, winning the inaugural Higher Education Academy Global Teaching Excellence Award, and achieving a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Gold Award, both in 2017. The Gold Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) award recognised that the University of Huddersfield delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK. In 2020 the University was ranked joint first in England for the proportion of its staff with a teaching qualification. The university's excellence has been evidenced by winning many awards such as winning the second in the country for

National Teaching Fellowships, which mark the UK's best lecturers in Higher Education, winning a total of 18 since 2008.

The University has six academic schools: Applied Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Huddersfield Business School, Computing and Engineering, Education and Professional Development and Human and Health Sciences. The Global Disaster Resilience Centre is part of the School of Applied Sciences, located within the Department of Biological and Geographical Sciences, including Forensic Biology and Geography.

## University of Central Lancashire



The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) in Preston was founded in 1828 as the Institution for the Diffusion of Knowledge. Since those early days, it has grown into one of the UK's largest universities with a staff and student community approaching 38,000 and an employment-focused course portfolio containing over 350 undergraduate programmes and nearly 250 postgraduate courses. The University has an established research reputation with world-leading or internationally excellent work taking place within the areas of Business, Health, Humanities and Science.

As a truly global institution with an established campus in Cyprus, UCLan's student body includes 120 nationalities and its partnership network extends to 125 countries. In 2021 the Center for World University Rankings placed UCLan in the top 7 percent of all worldwide universities.

The University has a strong focus on continually improving the student experience. According to the 2020 Student Welfare League Table, UCLan is ranked first for the money invested into student well-being services. Its soon-to-be-completed masterplan redevelopment has created an attractive and inviting, world-class campus in Preston which is helping to create jobs, kick-start regeneration and attract inward investment into the City.



### 3. Overall meeting days and agenda

6 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2022										
Pre-meeting days	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Post-meeting days
6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> September Tuesday/Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup> Sept Thursday	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept Friday	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept Monday	13 <sup>th</sup> Sept Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup> Sept Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept Friday	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> September Saturday/Sunday
Arrival of participants	Meeting in UCLAN	Meeting in UCLAN	Individual group meetings	Individual group meetings	Meeting in HUD	Meeting in HUD	Technical visit to Scotland	Technical visit to Scotland	Technical visit to Scotland	Departure of participants

### 4. Detailed agendas for the event – Academic and research sessions

This is version 1.0 of the agenda and is subject to change.

#### Day 1 – 8 September 2022 at the University of Central Lancashire EC 312

09.00 – 10.00	Registration and tea/coffee – Student Centre Welcome Remarks – Prof StJohn Crean + Group Photo (Walk to EIC312)	
10.00 – 10.30	Opening Remarks + Agenda Delegate Suggestions + Menu Choices	Dr Sarita Robinson + Prof Champika Liyanage
10.30 – 11.30	Marketing and Promotion	Dr Andy Morley (UCLan)
11.30 – 11.45	Tea /Coffee break	
11.45 – 12.45	Registration and Enrolment of Students (+WP4)	Dr Rumesh Liyanage (SJP) + Prof Seneviratne Nawarathne
12.45 – 13.45	Lunch Hot Food Option	2 Choices (Sweet Potato/Chickpea Curry & Fish Pie)
13.45 – 14.45	Financial Management of EU Programmes	Prof Arturas Kaklauskus + Dr Irina Vinogradova-Zinkevic VGTU
14.45 – 15.45	Current Agricultural Research	Dr Hamad Saeed (Myerscough)
15.45	Finish and Tea/Coffee	
16:00 – 17:30	Guided walking tour of Preston with Winckley Tours (Steve Harrison 07813213628)	
17:30 – 19:00	Free Time	
19:00 +	Event dinner - Tino's Restaurant Preston (Italian – paid for by UCLan)	

## Day 2 – 9 September 2022 at the University of Central Lancashire EC 312

09.00 – 09.30	Registration and welcoming tea/coffee + Prof Mike Fernando	
09:30 – 10.30	Impact of Waste on the Environment	Prof Karl Williams
10:30 – 11.15	Large Group Teaching Online	Dr Sarita Robinson (UCLan)
11.15 – 11.30	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:30 – 11:45	Prof Ian Allison – Introduction to the Faculty of Science & Technology	
11.45 – 13:00	Teacher Evaluation (Peer and Teacher Evaluations)	Assoc Prof Emlyn Witt (TalTech) + Dr Rumesh Liyanage (SJP)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Hot Food Option	2 Choices (Veg Stroganoff/Chicken Korma)
14:00 – 15:30	Conflict Resolution/Grievances Handling/Emotional Intelligence	Dr Nishara Fernando (UoC – 15mins) and Dr Sarita Robinson (UCLan)
15:30 – 16:00	Discussion and Closing Remarks	Prof Champa Nawaratne/Prof Dilanthi Amaratunga/Dr Sarita Robinson
16:00	Finish + Head to Slug and Lettuce – Promptly!	
16:30 – 18:00	Afternoon Tea – Slug and Lettuce (paid for by UCLan)	

### Speakers (in chronological order):

Prof StJohn Crean	Pro Vice-Chancellor, UCLan
Dr Sarita Robinson	Deputy Head of School of Psychology and Computer Science, UCLan
Dr Andy Morley	Deputy Head of School of Psychology and Computer Science, UCLan
Dr Rumesh Liyanage	Lecturer, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Prof Seneviratne Nawarathne	University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Assoc Prof Irina Vinogradova-Zinkevic	Vilnius Gediminas Technical University
Prof Arturas Kaklauskus	Vilnius Gediminas Technical University
Dr Hamad Saeed	Myerscough College (UCLan partner)
Prof Mike Fernando	Head of School of Engineering, UCLan
Prof Karl Williams	Director, Centre for Waste and Resource Management, UCLan
Prof Ian Allison	Executive Dean of Faculty of Science and Technology, UCLan
Assoc Prof Emlyn Witt	TalTech University
Dr Nishara Fernando	University of Colombo
Prof Champa Nawaratne	University of Ruhuna
Prof Dilanthi Amaratunga	University of Huddersfield

**Day 3 – 12 Sept – at the University of Huddersfield – Oastler Building (OA7/29)**

08:30 – 09:00	Registration Oastler Building (OA7/29)	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening remarks  Welcome address	Prof Dilanthi Amaratunga and Prof Richard Haigh Co-Directors, Global Disaster Resilience Centre, School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield  Prof Michel Ginger, Dean, School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield
09.30 – 10.00	Development of SAR centre and purchasing equipment.	WP3 Group
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Tea /Coffee break</b>	
10:30 – 11:15	Development of curricular and approval process from the UGC	WP2 Group
11:15 – 12:00	Student enrolment platform	WP4 Group
12:00 – 12:30	Conference planning	WP6 Group
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
13:30 – 14.15	Guest speech on “Resilient regional food systems during the pandemic?”	Dr John Lever, Reader, Sustainable and Resilient Communities/ Director of SURGE Research Centre, Department of Management, Business School, University of Huddersfield
14:15 – 15:00	Dissemination	WP7 Group
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	
15:30 – 16:00	Project Steering Committee Meeting (optional – BRITAE project lead to confirm )	
16:00 – 17:00	Huddersfield University tour – visiting award winning Barbara Hepworth building, guided by Global Disaster Resilience Centre researchers	

**Day 4 – 13 Sept – at the University of Huddersfield - Oastler Building – (OA7/29)**

09:00 – 09:30	Introduction to the Global Disaster Resilience Centre (GDRC)	Prof Richard Haigh and Prof Dilanthi Amaratunga
09.30 – 10.15	Guest speech on “Centre for Biomimetic Societal Futures”	Prof. Liz Towns-Andrews OBE, 3M Professor of Innovation, Holder of the Queen’s Award for Enterprise Promotion, Director of External Engagement, Huddersfield Business School, University of Huddersfield
10:15 – 10:35	<b>Tea /Coffee break</b>	
10:35 – 10.45	Research colloquium	Prof Richard Haigh and Prof Dilanthi Amaratunga
10:45 – 11:05	Researcher presentations 1: “Nature-inspired solutions for disaster risk reduction in coastal regions”	Dr Nuwan Dias GDRC, School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield
11:05 – 11:25	Researcher presentations 2: “Mitigating hydrometeorological hazard impacts through improved transboundary river management in the Ciliwung River Basin”	Ms Geogina Clegg GDRC, School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield
11:25 – 11:45	Researcher presentations 3: “A microenvironmental perspective to disaster risk assessment using community-based knowledge”	Mr Asitha De Silva GDRC, School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield
11:45 – 12:05	Researcher presentations 4 “Evaluation of Global Policies and Frameworks applicable for Agro-ecosystems Resilience”	Dr Kinkini Hemachandra GDRC, School of Applied Sciences, University of Huddersfield
12:05 – 12:30	Q & A on presentations 1,2,3 & 4	
12:30 - 13:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
13:30 – 14:00	Researcher presentations 5: “University-Industry Partnership Model for Agro-Industry Innovation: Sri Lankan and European Experiences”	Prof Guttilla Jayasinghe University of Ruhuna
14:00 - 14:20	Researcher presentations 6: “Design and Fabrication of a User Friendly, Disaster Resilience Solar Powered Prototype Pasteurizer to Purify Flood and Rainwater”	Prof S B Nawarathne University of Sri Jayewardenepura

14:20 – 14:40	Researcher presentations 7: “Agro-eco systems and adaptive solid waste management in crisis situations; a case study of two selected local councils in Colombo, Sri Lanka”	Prof Nishara Fernando University of Colombo
14:40 – 15:00	Q & A on presentations 6 & 7	
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	
15:30 – 15:50	Researcher presentations 8: “Developing a Smart Water Management System to Strengthen the Resilience in Agroecosystems in Sri Lanka”	Dr Chandana Siriwardena University of Moratuwa
15:50 – 16:10	Researcher presentations 9: “Assessment of pedagogical competencies for delivering a master’s degree program on tropical agroecosystems”	Prof Achini De Silva University of Sabaragamuwa
16:10 – 16:30	Q & A on presentations 8 & 9	
16:30 – 17:00	Summary of the day : current state of the art and new research opportunities	Led by Prof Richard Haigh and Prof Dilanthi Amaratunga and contributed by all

## 5. Detailed agendas for the event – Technical visits

### Day 5 – 14 September 2022

Date and time	Places to visit
<b>08:45</b>	Leave Huddersfield – team to gather at the main entrance
<b>11.00</b>	Reach York Railway Museum
<b>14: 00</b>	Lunch at the Railway Museum (at your preference)
<b>14:30</b>	Departure from Railway Museum to Edinburgh
<b>18:30</b>	Arrive in Edinburgh Dropping off delegates only at the two recommended hotels in Edinburgh
<b>Evening</b>	At leisure

### Day 6 – 15 September 2022

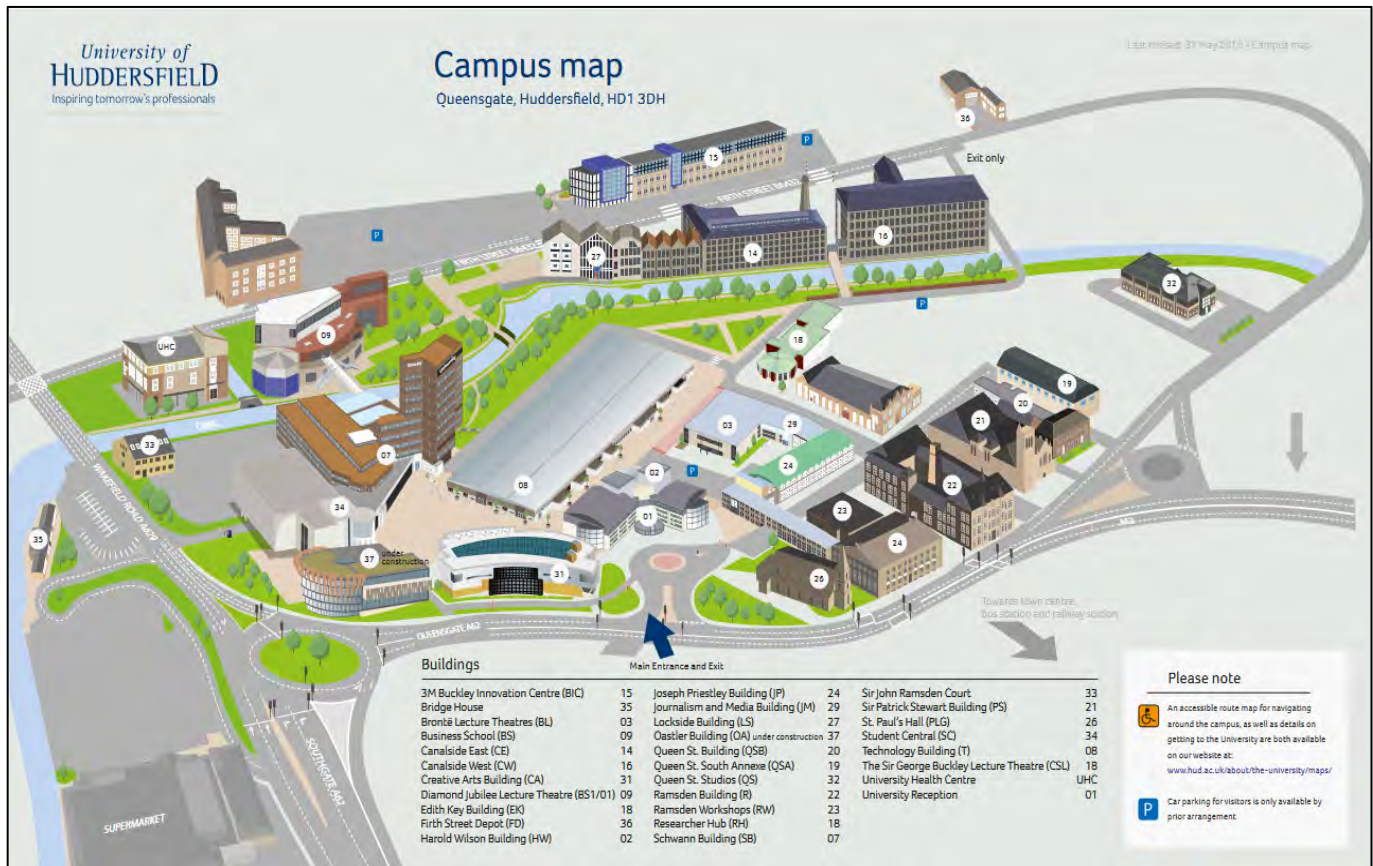
<b>08:45</b>	Pick up delegates from two recommended hotels
<b>11.00</b>	Reach Swanston Farm in Edinburgh
<b>13:00</b>	Lunch at the Swanston Farm (at your preference)
<b>14: 00</b>	Departure from the farm to visit the Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh
<b>18:30</b>	Travel From the Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh to dinner venue at the city
<b>19:00</b>	Dinner in Edinburgh (sponsored by University of Huddersfield)
<b>21:00</b>	Drop off at the two recommended hotels

### Day 7 – 16 Sept

<b>08:45</b>	Pick up delegates from two recommended hotels
<b>10:30</b>	Reach Whitelee Wind Farm In Glasgow
<b>013:30</b>	Lunch at the wind farm
<b>14:30</b>	Departure from the Wind farm to Huddersfield via Preston
<b>18:00</b>	Reach Huddersfield University



## 5. Meeting venues



Meeting venue at the University of Huddersfield is Building number 37 - Oastler Building  
Room number – OA7/29



## 6. Recommended accommodation

The 7<sup>th</sup> BRITAE project meeting will be conducted in different locations in the UK. The University of Central Lancashire in Preston will host the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 and the University of Huddersfield will host the event from 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. The site visit to Scotland is also organised by the University of Huddersfield, which will take place from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Participants are requested to arrange their own accommodation bookings in all three locations due to uncertainty regarding the number of participants who will attend the event, and also as per the project funding rules.

The following are details of the recommended accommodation in all three locations – Preston, Huddersfield and Edinburgh.

In Huddersfield	In Lancashire	Edinburgh, Scotland
<b>Please book your own accommodation.</b>	<b>Please book your own accommodation.</b>	<b>Please book your own accommodation.</b>
<p><b>Option 1</b>  <b>Premier Inn - Huddersfield Central hotel</b>  Less than 1 km from the University  £ 241 for <b>Semi-Flex</b> (Pay now, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 3 full days before arrival)  3 nights for 2 people</p> <p>£ 279 for <b>Flex</b> (Pay now or on arrival, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 1 pm on the day of arrival)  3 nights for 2 people</p> <p><a href="https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/west-yorkshire/huddersfield/huddersfield-central.html?ARRdd=19&amp;ARRmm=06&amp;ARRyy=2022&amp;NIGHTS=3&amp;ROOMS=1&amp;ADULT1=2&amp;CHILD1=0&amp;COT1=0&amp;INTTYP1=DB&amp;BRAND=PI">https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/west-yorkshire/huddersfield/huddersfield-central.html?ARRdd=19&amp;ARRmm=06&amp;ARRyy=2022&amp;NIGHTS=3&amp;ROOMS=1&amp;ADULT1=2&amp;CHILD1=0&amp;COT1=0&amp;INTTYP1=DB&amp;BRAND=PI</a></p> <p><b>Option 2</b>  <b>Travel Lodge</b>  <a href="https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/530/Huddersfield-hotel?utm_source=google&amp;utm_medium=GHA_Organic&amp;utm_campaign=GHA_Huddersfield&amp;WT.tsrc=GHA_Organic">https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/530/Huddersfield-hotel?utm_source=google&amp;utm_medium=GHA_Organic&amp;utm_campaign=GHA_Huddersfield&amp;WT.tsrc=GHA_Organic</a></p> <p>£ 195 for three nights two people (Fully Refundable no Wi-Fi)  £ 236 (Fully Refundable+ Breakfast +Wi-Fi)</p> <p><b>Option 3</b></p>	<p><b>Option 1</b>  <b>Preston Legacy Hotel</b> – the closest to Darwin Building about 2 minutes walk.  <a href="https://www.legacy-hotels.co.uk/hotels/legacy-preston-international-hotel-preston-lancashire">https://www.legacy-hotels.co.uk/hotels/legacy-preston-international-hotel-preston-lancashire</a></p> <p><b>Option 2</b>  <b>Preston Central Premier Inn</b> is the cheapest and 5 minutes walk away.  <a href="https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/lancashire/preston/preston-central.html?cid=GLBC_PRECE">https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/lancashire/preston/preston-central.html?cid=GLBC_PRECE</a></p> <p><b>Option 3</b>  <b>Holiday Inn Preston</b>  <a href="https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/preston/pstlc/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--HI--GB--PSTLC">https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/preston/pstlc/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--HI--GB--PSTLC</a></p>	<p><b>Two Premier Inn hotels are recommended in Edinburgh</b></p> <p><b>Option 1 Premier Inn Edinburgh A1 (Musselburgh) hotel</b>  14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022</p> <p>£ 248 for <b>Semi-Flex</b> (Pay now, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 3 full days before arrival) 2 nights 2 people</p> <p>£ 274 for <b>Flex</b> (Pay now or on arrival, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 1 pm on the day of arrival) 2 nights 2 people</p> <p><a href="https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/scotland/lothian/edinburgh/edinburgh-a1-musselburgh.html?ARRdd=22&amp;ARRmm=06&amp;ARRyyy=2022&amp;NIGHTS=2&amp;ROOMS=1&amp;ADULT1=1&amp;CHILD1=0&amp;COT1=0&amp;INTTYP1=DB&amp;BRAND=PI">https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/scotland/lothian/edinburgh/edinburgh-a1-musselburgh.html?ARRdd=22&amp;ARRmm=06&amp;ARRyyy=2022&amp;NIGHTS=2&amp;ROOMS=1&amp;ADULT1=1&amp;CHILD1=0&amp;COT1=0&amp;INTTYP1=DB&amp;BRAND=PI</a></p> <p><b>Option 2 Premier Inn Edinburgh A7 (Dalkeith) hotel</b>  14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022</p> <p>£ 285 for <b>Semi-Flex</b> (Pay now, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 3 full days before arrival) 2 nights 2 people</p>

<b>Edgerton Hotel</b> <a href="http://www.edgertonhotel.co.uk/">http://www.edgertonhotel.co.uk/</a> £ 195 for three nights two people (Fully Refundable)		£ 307 for <b>Flex</b> (Pay now or on arrival, fully refundable with free cancellation up to 1 pm on the day of arrival) 2 nights 2 people  <a href="https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/scotland/lothian/edinburgh/edinburgh-a7-dalkeith.html?ARRdd=22&amp;ARRmm=06&amp;ARRyyy=2022&amp;NIGHTS=2&amp;ROOMS=1&amp;ADULT1=2&amp;CHILD1=0&amp;COT1=0&amp;INTTYP1=DB&amp;BRAND=PI">https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/scotland/lothian/edinburgh/edinburgh-a7-dalkeith.html?ARRdd=22&amp;ARRmm=06&amp;ARRyyy=2022&amp;NIGHTS=2&amp;ROOMS=1&amp;ADULT1=2&amp;CHILD1=0&amp;COT1=0&amp;INTTYP1=DB&amp;BRAND=PI</a>
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## 7. Recommended travel arrangements/itinerary for BRITAE participants

The main international airport serving Preston and Huddersfield is Manchester Airport. Transfer information between Manchester Airport and Preston / Huddersfield are provided below.

### 7.1. How to get to Preston

#### Manchester Airport to Preston

##### By Train

It is easy to take the train between Manchester Airport and Preston with direct services running daily. The route only takes an hour, making for a stress-free pre- or post- flight journey. Trains are operated frequently on both weekends and weekdays. The Manchester Airport train station is located between T1/T3 and T2.

You can purchase a ticket at the Station, buy online from Trainline (<https://www.thetrainline.com>). Timetable and other information is also available at the National Rail website (<https://www.nationalrail.co.uk>).

If you are coming on foot from the train station, exit from the station's main entrance, turn right and then left down Corporation Street to Ringway. Cross Ringway at the lights, turn right, then take first left down Corporation Street (shops including Aldi on your left). Straight ahead and follow signs to the University.

For the meetings on day 1, please make your way to the UCLan Student Centre 43 Adelphi St, Fylde Rd, Preston PR1 7DP at 9 am where we will welcome you. For any issues please telephone Andrew Carmichael +44 (0)7960 011575.

##### By Car/ taxi

Driving to and from Manchester Airport and Preston is the fastest way to get between the two as most journeys take around 45 minutes, depending on traffic. The route follows either the M61 or M6, depending on how congested Manchester is, and if you don't have your own car you can hire one from the airport. You may want to consider booking a hotel room if you have an early flight, to avoid rush-hour around Manchester.

### 7.2. How to get to from Preston to Huddersfield

Transport will be provided by the University of Central Lancashire on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022, Saturday. The coach will depart from Preston via Manchester to Huddersfield. Lunch will be provided in Manchester. The coach will arrive in Huddersfield between 6 – 7 pm. If delegates to arrive at Huddersfield on some other days, it will need to be organised by delegates themselves.



## 8. Technical Visits in Scotland

### 8.1. About Scotland



Scotland is a country that is part of the United Kingdom. Covering the northern third of the island of Great Britain, mainland Scotland has a 96-mile (154 km) border with England to the southeast and is otherwise surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the north and west, the North Sea to the northeast and the Irish Sea to the south. It also contains more than 790 islands. Most of the population, including the capital Edinburgh, is concentrated in the Central Belt—the plain between the Scottish Highlands and the Southern Uplands—in the Scottish Lowlands.

In 1999, a Scottish Parliament was re-established, in the form of a devolved unicameral legislature comprising 129 members, having authority over many areas of domestic policy. The head of the Scottish Government is the first minister of Scotland, who is supported by the deputy first minister of Scotland. Scotland is represented in the United Kingdom Parliament by 59 MPs. It is also a member of the British–Irish Council, sending five members of the Scottish Parliament to the British–Irish Parliamentary Assembly, as well as being part of the Joint Ministerial Committee, represented by the first minister. You can read more about Scotland here: <https://www.visitscotland.com>

### 8.2. Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland



Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland and one of its 32 council areas. Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland and it is located in central-eastern Scotland, near the Firth of Forth, close to the North Sea. It is located in Lothian on the southern shore of the Firth of Forth. Edinburgh is Scotland's second-most populous city, behind Glasgow, and the seventh-most populous city in the United Kingdom. Thanks to its spectacular rocks, rustic buildings and a huge collection of medieval and classic architecture, including numerous stone decorations, it is often considered one of the most lively cities in Europe.

Edinburgh is the seat of the Scottish Government, the Scottish Parliament and the highest courts in Scotland. The city's Palace of Holyroodhouse is the official residence of the British monarchy in Scotland. The city has long been a centre of education, particularly in the fields of medicine, Scottish law, literature, philosophy, the sciences, and engineering. It is the second-largest financial centre in the United Kingdom, and the city's historical and cultural attractions have made it the UK's second-most visited tourist destination attracting 4.9 million visits, including 2.4 million from overseas in 2018.

Edinburgh's official population estimates are 506,520 (mid-2016) for the Edinburgh locality,[1] 518,500 (mid-2019) for the City of Edinburgh council area, and 1,339,380 (2014) for the wider city region. Edinburgh lies at the heart of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland city region comprising East Lothian, Edinburgh, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian.

The city is the annual venue of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. It is home to national cultural institutions such as the National Museum of Scotland, the National Library of Scotland and the Scottish National Gallery. The University of Edinburgh, founded in 1582 and now one of three in the city, is placed 16th in the QS World University Rankings for 2022. The city is also known for the Edinburgh International Festival and the Fringe, the latter being the world's largest annual international arts festival. Historic sites in Edinburgh include Edinburgh Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the churches of St. Giles, Greyfriars and the Canongate, and the extensive Georgian New Town built in the 18th/19th centuries. Edinburgh's Old Town and New Town together are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which has been managed by Edinburgh World Heritage since 1999.

## 9. Visa information

All travellers to the UK must have a valid visa to enter and stay in the UK. Partners are responsible for obtaining the correct visa.

## 10. Dress code

The dress code for the meeting is smart casual. This will allow participants to conduct discussions in comfort. Delegates are also encouraged to bring clothes to match the weather condition in the UK. Further participants can bring easy clothes for taking part in the technical visit in Scotland. For information, the average temperature in Edinburgh for September is 16° (high) / 9° (low), and Preston/Huddersfield is 17° (high) / 10° (low).

For the Scotland visit, participants can wear comfortable clothing and shoes for long walking and a little bit of hiking. Wearing a jacket is also encouraged during the Scotland visit due to the unpredictable temperature.

## 11. Internet Access

There will be free Wi-Fi internet access at the meeting venues in Preston and Huddersfield for all delegates.

## 12. Currency

The British Pounds is used in the UK.

## 13. Liability and Insurance

It is recommended that participants arrange for personal health and travel insurance. Access to health facilities is expensive in the UK, and hence, health insurance is highly recommended.

## 14. Site visit to Scotland – detailed plans

### 14.1 York Railway Museum



The National Railway Museum has over 6000 objects on display of which around 100 are locomotives or rolling stock which tell the stories for Britain's railway innovation. It is the largest museum of its type in Britain.

It is the home to iconic locomotives and an unrivalled collection of engineering brilliance, the **York Railway Museum** celebrates the past, present and future of innovation on the railways.

You can wander through halls and explore the stories, places and engineering marvels behind the railways. See world-changing inventions like *Rocket* and the Japanese Bullet Train. Admire the splendour of royal travel including Queen Victoria's 'palace on wheels' and stand face-to-face with the world's fastest steam locomotive, *Mallard*.

The museum tells the story of [rail transport](#) in Britain and its impact on society. It is the home of the national collection of historically significant railway vehicles such as [Mallard](#), [Stirling Single](#), [Duchess of Hamilton](#) and a Japanese [bullet train](#).

For more details, you can visit: <https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk>



## 14.2. Swanston Farm



Swanston Farm nestles into the base of Caerketton Hill, one of the most striking peaks in the Pentland Hills Regional Park. Within just 6 miles of Edinburgh City Centre and boasting 700 acres of land, Swanston Farm is a mere 15 minute bus journey from Princes Street and Edinburgh Castle, offering a fantastic selection of facilities to locals, visitors and tourists alike.

Over the last 35 years, Swanston Farm has evolved through many changes, diversifying from arable and livestock farming to include some leisure-based and commercial aspects – and now boasts 6 beautiful self-catering holiday cottages, business lets, a public Brasserie which commands stunning views in all directions, an equestrian livery stables and residential lets. The Farm is also home to an 18 hole golf course, a 9 hole short course and a driving range, run by Swanston Golf Ltd.

Access to Swanston Farm is just off the Edinburgh City Bypass at either Dreghorn or Lothianburn junctions. Why not come and start your day here by visiting our onsite eatery, Swanston Brasserie and enjoy a hearty, freshly cooked breakfast and reviving hot drink and contemplate the day ahead looking out over the panoramic view. Ask one of the Brasserie staff for a Highland Cow leaflet and this will direct you up the hill in search of our beautiful 'Hairy Coos' – on the way you can stop off and say hello to our friendly hens and pass by the secluded and ancient Swanston Village which still stands today.

More details: <https://swanston.co.uk>



### 14.3. Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh



The **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE)** is a scientific centre for the study of plants, their diversity and conservation, as well as a popular tourist attraction. Founded in 1670, today it occupies four sites across Scotland—[Edinburgh](#), [Dawyck](#), [Logan](#) and [Benmore](#)—each with its own specialist collection. The RBGE's living collection consists of more than 13,302 plant species. **RBGE** is the second oldest botanic garden in the UK after [Oxford's](#).

The Botanic Garden's main site in Edinburgh, which you will be visiting, is a hugely important player in a worldwide network of institutions seeking to ensure that [biodiversity](#) is not further eroded. Located one mile from the city centre it covers 70 acres (28 ha) of beautiful landscape, the Garden offers superb panoramic views of the city skyline featuring Edinburgh Castle. The Botanics, as the Garden is affectionately known locally, is breathtaking at any time of year.

The RBGE is actively involved in, and coordinates numerous [in situ](#) and [ex situ conservation](#) projects both in the UK and internationally. The three main cross-cutting themes of scientific work at the RBGE are: Scottish [Biodiversity](#), Plants & [Climate Change](#), and [Conservation](#).

In addition to the RBGE's scientific activities, the garden remains a popular destination for both tourists and locals. Locally known as "The Botanics", the garden is a popular place to go for a walk. Entrance to the botanic garden is free, although a small entry charge exists for the glasshouses.

Nearly 273,000<sup>[1]</sup> individual plants are grown at the Botanics in Edinburgh or its three smaller satellite gardens (known as Regional Gardens) located in other parts of Scotland. These represent around 13,300<sup>[1]</sup> species from all over the world, or about 4%<sup>[1]</sup> of all known plant species.

More details : <https://www.rbge.org.uk>

## 14.4. Whitelee Wind Farm



Whitelee Wind Farm is a windfarm on the Eaglesham moor in Scotland. Whitelee is the UK's largest onshore windfarm, and only the second in Europe to [Fântânele-Cogealac](#), in [Romania](#). It has 215 Siemens and Alstom [wind turbines](#) and a total capacity of 539 [megawatts](#) (MW), with the average of 2.5 MW per turbine, enough to power over 350,000 homes. Whitelee was developed and is operated by [ScottishPower Renewables](#).

The wind farm has over half a million people living within a 30 km radius, which makes Whitelee one of the first large-scale wind farms to be developed close to a centre of population.

The [Scottish government](#) had a target of generating 31% of [Scotland's electricity from renewable energy](#) by 2011 and 100% by 2020. The majority of this is likely to come from [wind power](#).

With more than 130 kilometres of trails to explore, on foot, by cycle or by horse, with free parking and free entry to our onsite Visitor Centre, Whitelee is a great destination for a day out.

More details: <https://www.whiteleewindfarm.co.uk>

## 15. Local contact information

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