

## **Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management:**

Meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists – 21-22 May 2007, Edinburgh

### **The meeting venue**

The meeting is in the board room in the offices of the Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT. This is about half way between airport and city centre, on the direct bus route, near Edinburgh Zoo (see leaflet for more details). The meeting starts at 9.00 on 21 May and ends by 17.00 on 22 May. The Forestry Commission will be providing a buffet lunch and tea/coffee in the meeting room suite on both days.

### **Travel in Edinburgh**

Edinburgh has no trams or metro and only a limited suburban railway, so most visitor travel is by bus or taxi.

- The local buses (red, Lothian) have a flat fare of £1 per journey on one bus, or £2.30 per day, ticket purchased from driver when boarding.
- The blue airport express bus (100) travels between airport and city centre in about 25 minutes, with limited stops including Zoo (for Forestry Commission and Holiday Inn) about half way. For a journey to/from airport, the fare is £3 single or £5 open return. For most of the day, the gaps between buses are no more than 10 minutes.
- Taxis between airport and city centre cost around £16-£18, or around £10-£12 between airport and Forestry Commission or hotels in Corstorphine.

### **Hotels in Edinburgh**

A discounted rate for participants is available at the Edinburgh Capital Hotel, 187 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UG <http://www.bw-edinburghcapital.co.uk/>. This hotel is located on Corstorphine Hill, about 2km north of Forestry Commission. A frequent bus service (26) connects the two, but by a circuitous route of about 5km, taking about 15 minutes. There is a Capital Fitness centre (including gym and pool) at the hotel, and woodland walks on Corstorphine Hill nearby. A number of rooms are being held until 9 March at the special rate of £57/night (single, including breakfast). For this offer, book direct with the hotel (telephone + 44 131 528 9900, fax + 44 131 334 9712), quoting Forestry Commission and reference AILEEN.

The Edinburgh Holiday Inn is located next to Edinburgh Zoo, within 5 minutes walk of Forestry Commission. At present only limited discounts are available, giving prices around £100/night <http://www.edinburgh.holiday-inn.com/>.

There are many other hotels in the city centre and Edinburgh suburbs. All buses passing the Forestry Commission (local LRT and other companies) go to the city centre (Princes Street), journey time about 20-25 minutes.

### **Dinner at Edinburgh Zoo - 21 May**

The UK Forestry Commission will be arranging and funding a dinner for all participants on the evening of 21 May, in the Mansion House of Edinburgh Zoo

<http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/> (for the Mansion House see "Conferences & Weddings"). Most dishes on the menu have a Scottish theme (see menu). If you let the Forestry Commission know by 8 May, you can choose from the 3 starters, 4 main courses (1 vegetarian) and 3 desserts. For those not choosing by 8 May, we will order a certain number of each dish, and try to match preferences to the total order. The meal will start at 19.00, which should give participants an opportunity to see some of the Zoo before the meal.

### **Sightseeing**

The Edinburgh guide <http://www.edinburghguide.com/travel/visitor/index.shtml> is one website giving information about visitor attractions in Edinburgh. There are several Edinburgh bus tours <http://www.edinburghtour.com/>. Anyone who plans to extend their stay to include a full day sightseeing may be interested in the Edinburgh Pass, covering many visitor attractions and travel <http://www.edinburgh.org/pass/>.

For participants staying on the Sunday before the meeting, we intend to make informal arrangements for some sightseeing in the afternoon and a meal in the evening. If you might be interested in joining up with us on the Sunday for either sightseeing or meal, it would be helpful if you could let us know in advance to help plan numbers, and also say how best to contact you to arrange to meet up.

### **Contacts**

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