

UK NEUROINFORMATICS NETWORK

27-28 June, 2005

Macdonald Holyrood Hotel
81 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh

Background to the Workshop

The field of neuroinformatics brings together experimental neuroscientists with scientists from the computational disciplines, all having an interest in understanding the brain, at many different levels.

Neuroinformatics involves a wide range of people from many different disciplines, and thus creates a challenge for how best to take advantage of the many opportunities presented. The Network is designed to help us with this (www.neuroinformatics.org.uk).

Funded by a three-year grant from MRC, ESPRC and BBSRC, the aim of the Network is to establish the neuroinformatics community, to provide a forum for the exchange of news, views and information, to develop collaborations, and to act as a voice for UK neuroinformatics. One novel feature of the Network is that we aim to set up a number of investigative projects looking into issues of particular interest to UK neuroinformatics, to be carried out by Network members. Modest funding for the projects is available through the Network.

This workshop is the first UK-wide meeting of the Network. It spans two half-days, running from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 2. This format is designed to offer the maximal amount of interaction during the limited time available. The detailed programme is given below; here are some explanatory notes about how the workshop is organised.

Day 1:

Session 1 - Three orientating talks will introduce different aspects of UK neuroinformatics and provide an international perspective.

Session 2 - Delegates will break into small groups, to focus on two issues: (i) to establish the hot topics in UK neuroinformatics, and how this relates to activity in the rest of the world; (ii) to agree on the six most important issues for the organisation of UK neuroinformatics. A list of possibilities identified by delegates before the workshop will be available to prompt discussion. The results of these discussions will be fed back to the group as a whole.

It is hoped that discussions will continue in the evening, lubricated by dinner at the hotel.

Day 2:

Session 3 - Delegates will be introduced to the International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility. This has been proposed as a means of coordinating neuroinformatics on an international scale, and has been endorsed in principle by many OECD member governments.

Session 4 - In a plenary discussion, the set of possible projects will be refined to a shortlist of six. Delegates who are willing to take forward these projects will be identified and Project Teams formed. In the breakout session following, workplans will be drawn up by Project Teams.

In addition, plans for other activities to be carried out by the Network will be discussed.

Workshop Programme

Day 1, Monday 27 June:

12.00-12.30 Delegates assemble

12.30-13.45 Lunch

Session 1

13.45-14.00 David Willshaw, University of Edinburgh
Welcome; the UK Neuroinformatics Network

14.00-14.30 Angus Silver, University College London
Neuroinformatics from a physiologist's perspective

14.30-15.00 Douglas Armstrong, University of Edinburgh
Neuroinformatics from a biologist's perspective

15.00-15.30 Rolf Kötter, University of Düsseldorf
International perspective on neuroinformatics

15.30-16.00 Afternoon break; tea/coffee

Session 2

16.00-17.15 Breakout Discussion #1 - to answer the questions:
1. What are the hot topics in neuroinformatics?
2. What are the hot topics in UK neuroinformatics?
3. What are the six most important issues
for the UK neuroinformatics community to address?

17.15-18.00 Feedback from the breakout groups; end of Day 1

19.30- Dinner

Day 2, Tuesday 28 June:

09.00-09.15 Delegates assemble; tea/coffee

Session 3

09.15-09.35 Review of the previous day

09.35-10.00 David Willshaw, University of Edinburgh
Introduction to the International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility (INCF)

Session 4

10.00-11.00 Plenary Discussion:
To agree up to six investigative projects

11.00-11.30 Morning break: tea/coffee

11.30-12.30 Breakout Discussion #2:
Formulation of work plan for individual projects, and
Discussion of additional tasks for the Network

12.30-13.00 Feedback from the breakout groups; Date of next workshop

13.00- Lunch; end of workshop

Useful Information

Venue

The workshop will be held at the Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, 81 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh. Telephone 0131-550 4500. Your luggage will be stored by the concierge until the check-in time of 2pm. The hotel features a gym, solarium, sauna, steam room and swimming pool. See www.macdonald-hotels.co.uk for more information.

Travel

- If coming by plane...

Travel into Edinburgh by taxi, approx fare £20, approximate journey time 20 minutes. Alternatively, use the frequent Airlink bus, operated by Lothian Region Transport, £3.00 single or £5.00 open return, approximate journey time 25-30 minutes. Airlink buses run during the following times -

Airport to city centre: Monday to Saturday, buses every 10 minutes from 06.50 to 00.20. Sunday, buses every 10-15 minutes from 06.20 to 00.20.

City centre to airport: Monday to Saturday, buses every 10 minutes from 04.20 to 23.45.

For further information:

Edinburgh Airport, 0870-040 0007

Edinburgh Airport Taxis, 0131-344 3344

Lothian Region Transport, 0131-555 6363

- If coming by train...

If you are coming from the south and east, travel with GNER (minimum travel times to Edinburgh from other UK cities include: 3 hrs 59 minutes from London, 2 hours 16 minutes from York and 1 hour 23 minutes from Newcastle). If you are coming from the south-west, travel with Virgin. ScotRail runs services from other cities in Scotland, and also runs a sleeper service from London Euston.

For further information:

GNER, 0845-722 5333

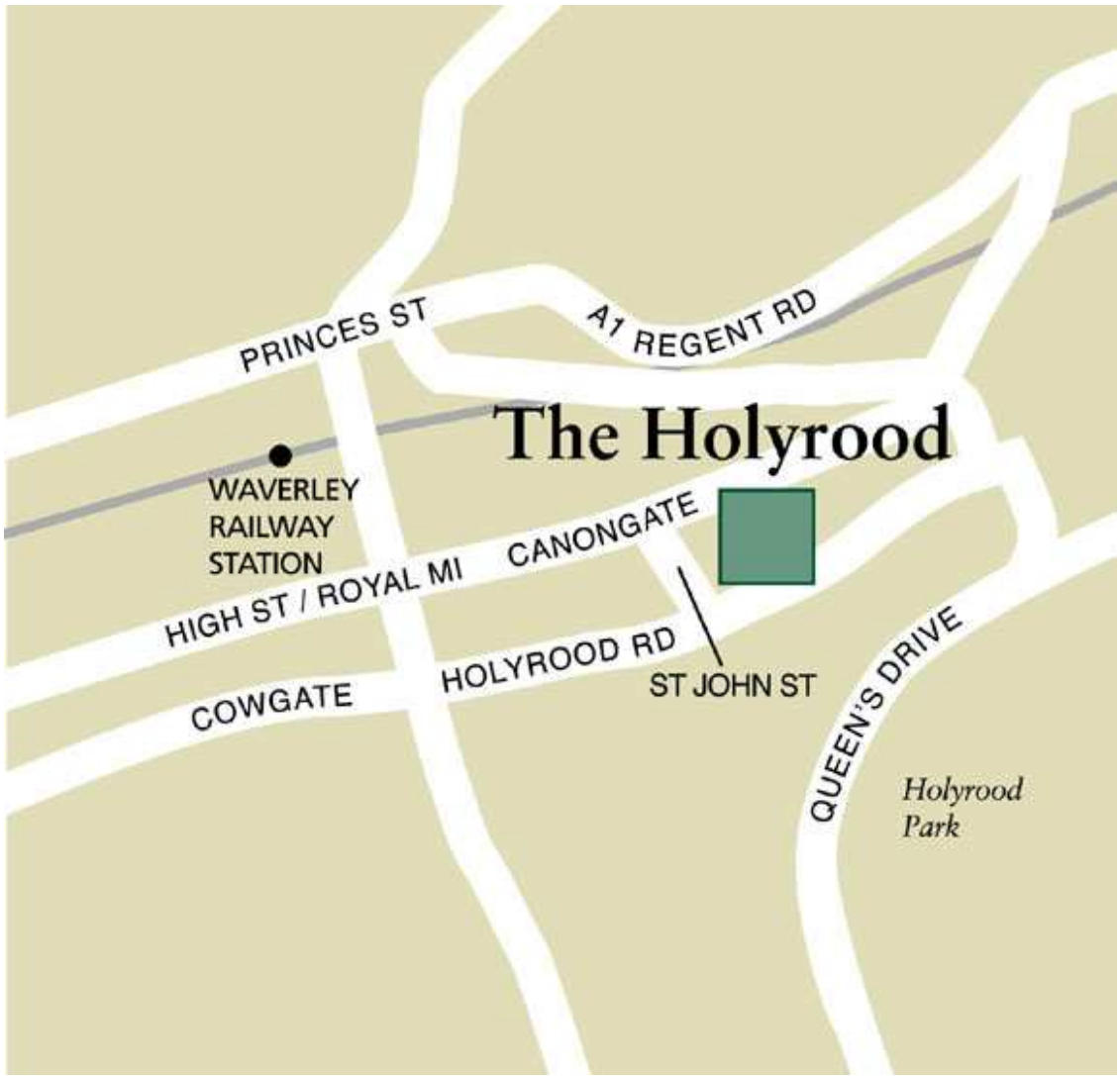
National rail enquiries, 08457-48 49 50

ScotRail, 0845-601 5929

Virgin, 0870-789 1234

- If coming by car...

The hotel operates valet parking on a first-come-first-served basis. The cost of a 24 hour permit is £9.50. If you wish to use this, please ask the concierge when you check in.



The Holyrood

WAVERLEY
RAILWAY
STATION

HIGH ST / ROYAL MI
CANONGATE

COWGATE

HOLYROOD RD

ST JOHN ST

QUEEN'S DRIVE

Holyrood
Park