

ISMOR Guide

1. Overview

This document is to help provide you with additional information that you might need for the ISMOR 43 conference. If you have any questions that are not answered by this documentation, please contact the ISMOR Committee via ismor@theorsociety.com, who would be happy to help.

This is an evolving document, that will be updated as the planning progresses.

This document contains the following sections:

1. Overview
2. Registration
3. Getting to the event
4. Getting around Southampton
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1.1. What is ISMOR?

ISMOR is an annual conference that brings together Operational Analysts and Researchers working in Defence and Security from across the globe to discuss recent developments and research in a three-day event.

Delegates will have the opportunity to attend a range of briefings and workshops, and there are ample opportunities to network in an informal setting.

1.2. General Event Details

This year's conference will be held at the National Oceanographic Centre (NOC) in Southampton: [National Oceanography Centre](#).

The programme can be found online on the ISMOR event page. It should be noted that due to environmental considerations, printed programmes will not be provided to delegates on arrival. Delegates are encouraged to bring a printed copy of the programme, if you feel that you would benefit from having access to a hard copy.

On Monday there will be an evening social at HARBAR at the Harbour Hotel, Ocean Village. There will be a welcome drinks provided and a selection of pizzas and snacks. It also has a bar if delegates wish to purchase additional drinks.

Following Tuesday's briefings, there will be an informal evening meal. There will be short break between the conference and the meal, during which we will be running a pub quiz. Attendees are invited to join us for the quiz, network in the NOC bar, or if they wish, return to their accommodation, or explore Southampton.

Following Wednesday's briefings, there will be the ISMOR Symposium Dinner, which is a more formal event. More information about food at the Symposium dinner is provided in Section 6. If you'd like to mingle with other delegates after the briefings finishes on Wednesday, and before the dinner starts, we will be hosting drinks beforehand. This year's dinner will be held at ([Banana Wharf - Banana Wharf](#)).

2. Registration

You can purchase tickets for either:

- **The full conference:** This will include access to all three days of the conference, all the workshops and briefings.
- **A single day ticket:** This will include access to all the briefings on a single day.

There is an evening meal on Tuesday, and the Symposium Dinner on Wednesday.

Tickets can be purchased through [OR Society website](#) (see the "book here" tab).

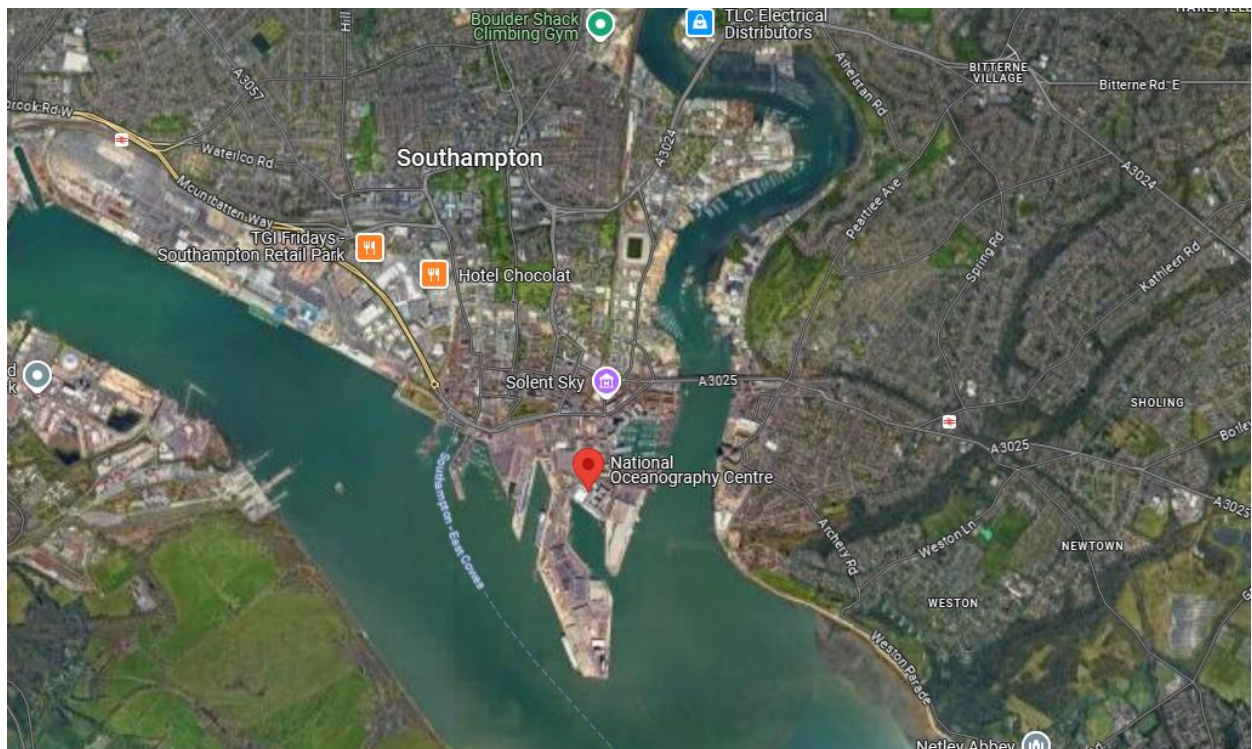
Please note that the conference ticket price does not include accommodation and there is no option to attend the conference virtually.

3. Getting to the Event

The conference is being held at the National Oceanographic Centre (NOC) in Southampton:

National Oceanographic Centre,
European Way,
Southampton,
SO14 3ZH

The NOC is located in the Port of Southampton and entry is via Dock Gate 4. The Port has restricted access and therefore you must bring a valid form of photographic ID (Driving License / Passport) to access to the Dock.



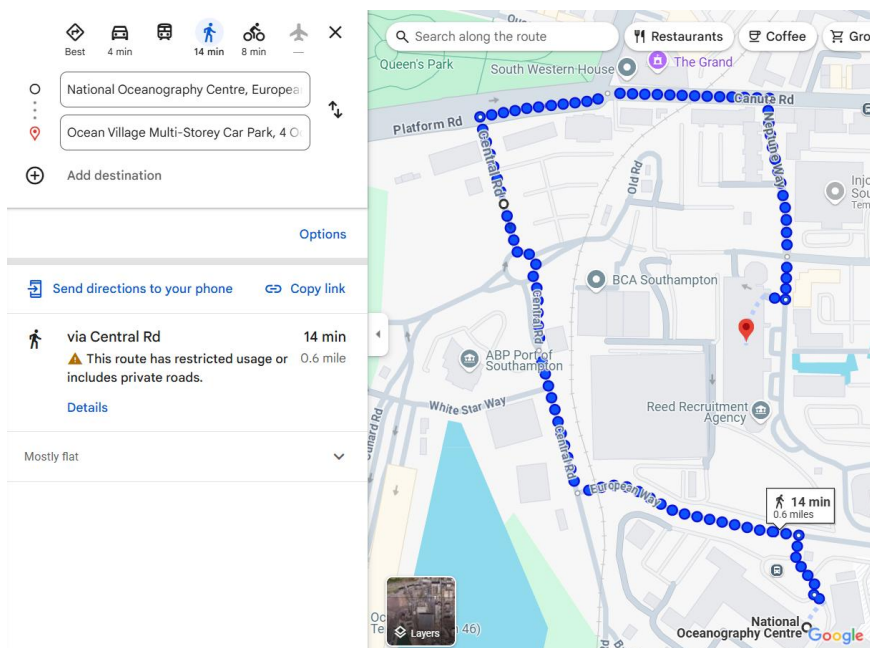
3.1. Travel by Car

Parking is very limited at NOC and is required to be pre-booked, please contact NOCevents@noc.ac.uk to arrange parking. Parking permits, where applicable, are to be collected from main Reception, Level 1, upon arrival for displayed in your windscreen.

There are a number of different car parks that delegates can use across Southampton:



It's recommended that delegates park at the Ocean Village multi-story carpark (Ocean Car Park, SO14 3TJ). Further details, such as costs, can be found here: [Ocean Car Park](#). It should be noted, that due to layout at Southampton Dock, it is not a direct walk from the car park to the NOC, and delegates should allow ~15 minutes to walk from the car park to the conference centre.



3.2. Travel by Train

The closest train station to the NOC is Southampton Central, which is near the heart of the city.

Delegates can travel from the train station to the NOC:

- Via public transport, it's recommended that you take the bus. You will need to walk from the train station to the Civic Centre (Stop A1) and then get the U1C bus to the Docks. This should take about 20 minutes.
- You could walk from the train station to the NOC, this would take about 40 minutes.
- Alternatively, you could get a taxi or an Uber, which would take about 10 minutes. Prices will vary, but you could expect to pay about £10.

3.3. International Travel

For those international delegates, it's recommended that you fly into London:

- Delegates flying into London Gatwick can get the train to Clapham Junction, where you'll then need to change onto a train which will take you directly to Southampton Central. This journey will take about 2 hours.
- London Heathrow is a very large airport with four main terminals. Delegates should check the terminal that they will arrive at when planning onward travel.

Public transport options to reach Southampton include:

- Get the train (on the Elisabeth Line) to Hayes and Harlington, change to another train to Reading, and then change to a cross-country train directly to Southampton Central. This will take about 2 hours.
- Get the National Express Coach 205 from Heathrow directly to Southampton Central. This will take up to 2 hours but will likely be less regular than trains (and potentially less comfortable).
- Get the Rail Air bus to Woking and then change for a direct train to Southampton, taking about 2 ¼ hours.

Delegates travelling from Europe can fly directly to Southampton with connection offered by KLM through Amsterdam.

For delegates travelling by train who have concerns or additional support needs, the nationwide Passenger Assistance service is available for no additional cost. This can be booked via telephone (0800 022 3720 09:00-17:00 UK time, Monday to Friday. Select option 1), [website](#) or [app](#). It is recommended to book 24 hours in advance if using Passenger Assistance.

If delegates are flying into any other airport or would like any general travel advice, please contact: ismor@theorsociety.com and we would be happy to help.

4. Getting around Southampton

The hotels with conference rates include: [MOXY](#), [Leonardo Royal Hotel Southampton](#), [Leonardo Hotel Southampton](#) and the [VOCO by IHG](#) which are all a 10 – 30-minute walk from the NOC along the waterfront. All the accommodation rates and codes can be found on the [ISMOR website](#).

The Unilink Bus Service (which has a terminus on the NOC site) operate buses across the city, for more information: [click here](#).

Southampton has many local restaurants located within a short walk of most of the hotels. More information about getting around Southampton can be found [here](#).

4.1. Nearby Places to Explore

If you're arriving early or sticking around after the conference, there are a lot of interesting places to explore near Southampton, for example:

1. The New Forest, which is a historic woodland and heathland area known for its picturesque landscapes and diverse wildlife. It's a perfect destination for those who would like to see in British countryside and enjoy a gentle walk. The train is a convenient option, with services running from Southampton Central to several stations in the New Forest, such as Ashurst (~10 minutes), Beaulieu Road (~20 minutes), and Brockenhurst (~15 minutes).
2. Portsmouth Historic Dockyard is a maritime museum and heritage area, home to historic ships like HMS Victory and HMS Warrior. There is a direct train from Southampton Central to Portsmouth Harbour, which takes between 45 to 60 minutes. Please note that you must pay an entrance fee to visit the Historic Dockyard.
3. Stonehenge is a World Heritage Site and prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, consisting of a ring of standing stones, each around 13 feet high. Stonehenge is a little tricky to reach via public transport, you could take a train from Southampton to Salisbury, which takes about 30 to 40 minutes. From Salisbury, you can catch a bus or taxi to Stonehenge, with the bus journey taking around 30 minutes. Please note that you must pay an entrance fee to visit Stonehenge.
4. If you're travelling via London, there are numerous iconic tourist sites to visit, such as the historic Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, and many museums, such as the British Museum, the Natural History Museum or the V&A. You can get views

across the city from the London Eye or visit the architectural marvel of St. Paul's Cathedral.

4.2. Nearby Shops

Southampton has plenty of corner shops, in case you can't carry or have forgotten something you might need for the conference (stationery, toothpaste, etc.).

The closest shop to NOC is the Co-op Ocean Way (Alexandra Wharf, Maritime Walk, Ocean Way, Southampton SO14 3TL), which is close to the recommended car parking; this shop is a 15-minute walk from NOC.

Additionally, there is a Co-op (117 High St, Southampton, SO14 2EA) that is located near the recommended hotels (10-minute walk or less). Both these Co-op shops will contain necessities and a variety of food.

5. Getting around NOC

The main entrance is noticeable as a large revolving door. On entering the main entrance, please follow the signage for ISMOR 2026 which will take you to the level 4 registration area. The NOC building is fully accessible, and all areas are serviced by stairs, lifts or ramps where applicable.

All visitors to the NOC site are registered on to the site. Please head to the level 4 reception area which is designated as the ISMOR Reception area, you will be issued with a delegate name badge and a security wrist band. Please note only a small area of the building is available to the public, the remainder requires the use of the wrist band for access.

NOC has a quiet/prayer rooms, which will be made available to ISMOR delegates throughout the conference. Additionally, there will be an accessibility champion available throughout the conference, who will be happy to support and answer any questions.

6. Food at the event

Refreshment and lunches are provided within your conference package, the times for these will be designated by the programme.

There will be a networking dinner Tuesday evening at the NOC.

The Symposium Dinner will be at Banana Wharf, 33 Channel Way, Southampton SO14 3JF.

The timings for both evening meals will be confirmed in the conference programme.

If you have any specific dietary needs, you will be asked to confirm these when registering for the conference.

7. General Information

7.1. Wifi access

Secure Wi-Fi is available throughout the NOC site. For the secure visitor network, please follow the instructions on the posters throughout the building. This network will automatically log you out each evening and require a log in each day. NOC has an IT help facility on site who may be able to assist with any connection issues.

7.2. What to bring

Delegates need to ensure that they bring a valid ID (typically either a passport or driving licence) to enter Southampton Docks. Delegates are not required to bring anything else.

7.3. Poster Presenters

The poster session will be on Wednesday. All poster presenters are asked to be located near their poster during this session to be available to answer questions (note that there will be time for presenter to have lunch during this session too).

7.4. Dress code

During the day, business attire is encouraged.

The Tuesday evening meal is an informal event. The dress code is smart casual or business attire.

Wednesday night is the Symposium Dinner. Many delegates will dress in formal or business attire for this event. However, ISMOR encourages an environment where everyone is comfortable, so we do not insist on formal attire for the Symposium Dinner.