



11th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group (EGM IWG11)

16-18 June 2026 Skövde, Sweden

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Meeting Dates & Venue

The 11th Meeting of the European Goose Management International Working Group will take place from Tuesday, 16 June until Thursday, 18 June 2026 in Skövde, Sweden at the kind invitation of the the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), the Wildlife Damage Center at the University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and the Nordic Board for Wildlife Research (NKV). The meeting will be held at the Hotel Billingeus.

The meetings of the EGMP Task Forces will take place on 15 June 2026 at the same location. Please note **that the Task Force day will be held in a hybrid mode**, allowing virtual participation for those who cannot travel to Skövde, whereas only in-person attendance is provided for the EGM IWG11.

Meeting Venue Address:

*Hotel Billingeus Skövde
Alphyddevägen
549 48 Skövde
Sweden
+46 (0)500-44 57 00*

info@billingeus.com
<https://billingeus.com/en/>

Further details, including opening times for the registration and schedule of the meetings are provided in the EGM IWG11 provisional agenda uploaded on the [meeting webpage](#).

How to get there

Car

Billingeus can be reached by car by taking road 26 or road 49 to Badhusrondellen and then following signs to Billingeus, about 1.5 km up the hill to the hotel. The hotel has a large parking lot, where you can park for free with a parking card, right outside the hotel. The parking lot also has charging points, where you can charge electric cars for a small fee.

Train

Skövde is located along the western main line, midway between Gothenburg and Stockholm. You can get there by train from Gothenburg to Skövde in around 90 minutes while the Stockholm-Skövde route takes around two hours.

Bus

Take bus 8 or 9 from the station Skövde Resecentrum to the station Billingen. It takes about 12-13 minutes. [Västtrafik: public transport in Västra Götaland | Västtrafik](#)

Taxi

From Skövde Resecentrum, it takes about 10 minutes by taxi to Billingeus. Contact Taxi Skövde. Tel: +46 500-41 65 00.



Meeting venue, Hotel Billingehus Skövde.



Contacts

If you require any assistance or have questions, please reach out to the meeting organisers:

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About Skövde

Skövde is a vibrant town known for its natural surroundings, strong industrial roots and growing reputation as a centre for education and innovation. With a population of around 57,000 in the urban area and municipality, Skövde is an important regional hub in Västra Götaland County, located between Sweden's two largest lakes, Lake Vänern and Lake Vättern. Its central location and strong rail connections make it easily accessible from both Gothenburg and Stockholm.

Skövde's origins trace back to the medieval period, with its history closely linked to Saint Helena (Saint Elin), the town's patron saint. The town developed as a place of pilgrimage around what is now Saint Helena's Church, which stands on medieval foundations in the centre of Skövde. Although much of the town was destroyed in the great fire of 1759, it was rebuilt and later expanded significantly with the arrival of the Western Main Railway in the 1850s. This railway connection transformed Skövde into an important industrial and transport centre, helping shape the modern town it is today.

Visitors to Skövde can enjoy a mix of history, nature and contemporary culture. The scenic slopes of Billingen, a plateau mountain rising to 304 metres above sea level, offer hiking trails, viewpoints and outdoor recreation throughout the year, including skiing in winter. In the town centre, visitors can explore Saint Helena's Church, pleasant pedestrian streets and local cafes. The University of Skövde adds youthful energy to the city and is particularly well known for technology, informatics and game development studies. Nearby parks such as Boulognerskogen provide green spaces for walking and relaxation, while Arena Skövde offers sports, wellness and leisure facilities for residents and visitors alike.

The city centre is compact, walkable and easy to navigate, with the railway station serving as an important transport hub. Different parts of Skövde each have their own character, from the lively university district to the quieter residential areas near Billingen. For panoramic views across the Västergötland plains, visitors can head up to the Billingen plateau, which is especially beautiful at sunset and during winter when the landscape is covered in snow.

For more detailed visitor information, including transportation, local attractions and events, the official tourism website of Skövde offers comprehensive resources to help plan your stay: [Visit Skövde](#)

Meeting Arrangements

Meals

Coffee and tea will be served during the coffee breaks and a supply of water will be provided throughout the meeting. In addition, lunch meals will be offered by the Host at no cost for the participants. The meeting participants will be invited to a celebratory dinner dedicated to the EGMP 10th anniversary on the evening of Wednesday, 17 June.

Field trip

A field visit to lake Hornborga ("Hornborgasjön") will be organised on Tuesday, 16 June 2026, from approx. 16:00 to 21:00. Lake Hornborga is a shallow wetland lake in the county of Västergötland, rich in birdlife and best known for its spectacular spring gatherings of thousands of cranes (March–April). There are also tens of thousands of moulting Greylag Geese present in June when the participants will

visit the lake. Participants are advised to wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes, and to bring a light jacket suitable for a cool evening or the possibility of a rain shower during the short hike. Birdwatching equipment such as binoculars and cameras is also recommended. Refreshments will be kindly provided by the Host.

For further information about the area, please visit: <https://www.hornborga.com/english/>

Accommodation

For the logistical ease and convenience of participants, we recommend booking accommodation at the meeting venue, Hotel Billingeus.

Alternatively, below is selection of hotels in Skövde:

<u>Home Hotel Majoren</u> Trädgårdsgatan 5 541 30 Skövde Tel.: +46 500410610 For more info: https://www.strawberry.se/hotell/sverige/skovde/home-hotel-majoren/	<u>Hotel Skövde</u> Stationsgatan 10 541 30 Skövde Tel.: +46 500410645 For more info: https://hotellskovde.com/	<u>Scandic Billingen</u> Trädgårdsgatan 10 54130 Skövde Tel.: +46 500745000 For more info: https://www.scandichotels.com/en/hotelreservation
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Weather

Mid-June in Skövde usually brings pleasant early summer conditions, with long daylight hours and mild temperatures. Average daytime temperatures are typically around 18°C to 20°C, while evenings and mornings can be noticeably cooler, often between 8°C and 11°C. Light rain showers are fairly common during this period, so participants are advised to bring layers, including a light jacket or sweater, as well as comfortable shoes and a small umbrella or waterproof outer layer for outdoor activities.

Useful numbers

Country dialling code: +46

Emergency services (fire, police, ambulance): 112

Disclaimer

The UNEP/AEWA Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, compensation for death or disability compensation, loss of or damage to personal property and any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the duration of the meetings. In this context, it is strongly recommended that all meeting participants secure international medical and travel insurance for the period of travel and the duration of the meeting, prior to their departure.