

The Barley Away Days Organizing Committee would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support



**DIAGEO**



**Novogene**

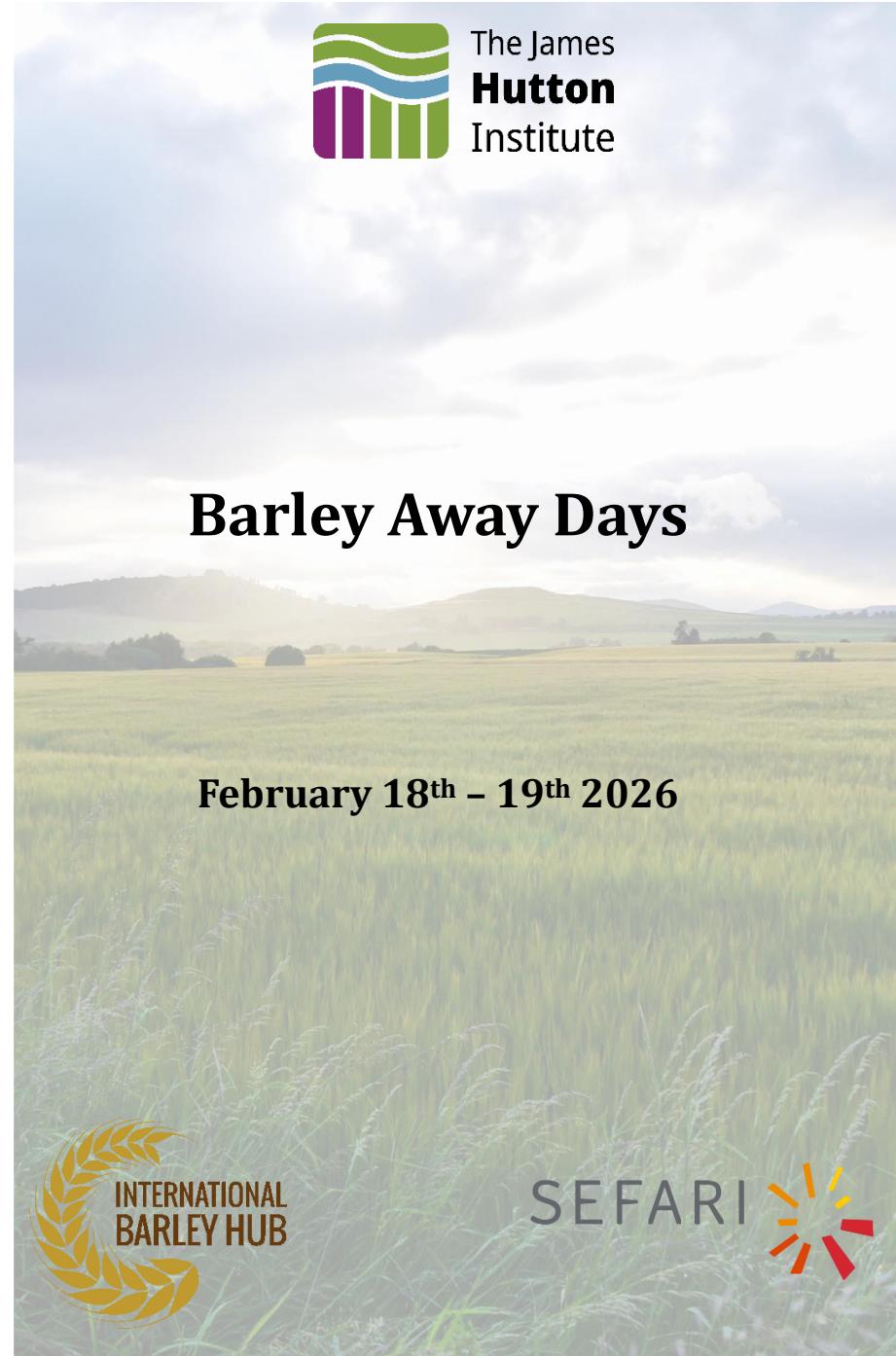
**Thermo**  
SCIENTIFIC



The James  
**Hutton**  
Institute

**Barley Away Days**

February 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2026



Wednesday February 18 <sup>th</sup>	
9:30 – 10:00	Coffee and registration
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome – <b>Robbie Waugh</b>
<b>Session 1</b> – Chair Micha Bayer	
10:10 – 10:25	<b>Gwendolyn Kirschner</b> – Cytokinin regulates the root angle in barley and wheat
10:25 – 10:40	<b>David Ashworth</b> – Barley Can Utilise Algal Fertiliser to Maintain Yield and Malt Quality Compared to Mineral Fertilise
10:40 – 10:55	<b>Maxwell Asiedu</b> – Root angle variations in OzBarley is driven by genetic variation in key EXPANSIN genes
10:55 – 11:20	<b>Anna Backhaus</b> – Mystical crop wild relatives and where to find them
11:20 – 12:05	Quiz
12:05 – 13:15	Lunch
<b>Session 2</b> – Chair Jennifer Shoesmith	
13:15 – 13:30	<b>Ruth Hamilton</b> – R-evolve: rapid evolution of wild barley
13:30 – 13:45	<b>George Terry Epaku</b> – Uganda's barley value chain; challenges, opportunities, and strategic solutions
13:45 – 14:00	<b>Katie Arnton</b> – Message in a Bottle: A synthetic community approach to decipher the genetic basis of plant-microbiota interactions in the rhizosphere
14:00 – 14:15	<b>Jane Millar</b> – From Grain to Glass – Importance of cereal to Distillery operations
14:15 – 14:50	Coffee
<b>Session 3</b> – Chair Yunqing Yu	
14:50 – 15:05	<b>Sidsel Birkelund Schmidt</b> – Prevention of manganese deficiency in cereals through a targeted choice of cover crops
15:05 – 15:20	<b>Qurat Ul Ain Hira</b> – Barley-legumes companion cropping for continuous grain and soil health
15:20 – 15:35	<b>Klara Knutsson</b> – Subcrown internode elongation in barley
15:35 – 15:50	<b>Samantha Kitchen</b> – Sustainable Agriculture and Mycotoxins in Barley
Flash talks	<b>Arpana Mallik</b> – Cover Cropping for Soil Health
	<b>Hope Hodgson</b> – Genetic control of skinning in a changing climate
	<b>Eloise Clarkson</b> – Landscape Genomics and Climate Prediction using AI
	<b>Amir Yousefi</b> – Developing AI-Driven Information Systems
	<b>Patricia ORiordan</b> – Investigating the modulation of flowering time to improve yield performance in barley
	<b>Dan Jones</b> – Potential for circular soil and crop enhancements through whisky distillery by-product generated Biochar
15:50 – 16:15	Special Guest
16:15 – 17:30	Hotel check-in
17:30	Whisky tasting – sponsored by SWA
18:30	Dinner – sponsored by Diageo

Thursday February 19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Session 4</b> – Chair Chiraa Campoli	
9:15 – 9:30	<b>Karol Kukula</b> – Assessing Nitrogen Use Efficiency Components in a Controlled Environment: A Comparison of Landrace and Elite Malting Barley
9:30 – 9:45	<b>Alanna McCutcheon</b> – Barley Surviving the Stress - Understanding Stress-Induced Developmental Plasticity in Barley
9:45 – 10:00	<b>Benjamin Potts</b> – Future-proofing barley for a high CO <sub>2</sub> world
10:00 – 10:25	<b>Hannah Schneider</b> – Integrated root anatomical traits for drought tolerance
10:25 – 11:10	Coffee
<b>Session 5</b> – Chair Paul Shaw	
11:10 – 11:25	<b>Riccardo Fusi</b> – The auxin efflux carrier PIN1a regulates vascular patterning in barley and other cereal roots.
11:25 – 11:40	<b>Zoe Marshall</b> – Utilising Bere barley landraces to improve crop manganese use efficiency and establish short value chains
11:40 – 11:55	<b>Heather Gulbrandsen</b> – Too Hot to Yield? Barley in a Warming Climate
11:55 – 12:10	<b>Ella Southin</b> – Characterising male sterile two-row barley for a hybrid system
12:10 – 13:15	Lunch
<b>Session 6</b> – Chair Laurence Ducreux	
13:15 – 13:30	<b>Le-Ann Kasese</b> – Using genetics to improve straw digestibility and reduce the carbon footprint of whisky production
13:30 – 13:45	<b>Manuel Feser</b> – Tools for FAIR Research Data Management
13:45 – 14:00	<b>Ryan Douglas</b> – Barley productivity and nitrogen losses under climate change in Scotland
14:00 – 14:25	<b>Darren Wells</b> – Phenotyping the Hidden Half of Plants - Roots and Soil
14:25 – 14:35	Quiz prize
14:35 – 14:40	Closing remarks – Tim George