

Urban Transition Zones

- Sustainable urban transformation in
the context of a small historic city

Planning Cities Commission seminar, Visby

21-24 OCTOBER 2018

UBC

UNION
OF THE BALTIC
CITIES



Welcome to Visby and Gotland

Dear colleagues,

Region Gotland and Planning Cities Commission, Union of the Baltic Cities are pleased to invite you to a seminar in Visby 21–24 October 2018.

Visby is located on the northwest coast of Gotland, the largest island in the Baltic Sea, about 100 km from the Swedish mainland. As a former Viking site, Visby became the main trade hub for the Hanseatic League in the Baltic Sea between the 12th and the 14th century. Its 13th-century city wall, medieval church ruins, warehouses and wealthy merchant homes from the same period make it the best preserved fortified commercial trade town in Northern Europe.

The Hanseatic town of Visby is a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1995. The majority of Visby's 23000 inhabitants live in the modern city districts that have evolved since the city expanded beyond the historic town from the late 19th century onwards. Today, the tourism industry is rapidly growing, while expanding connections to the mainland also give better opportunities for people to move to, live and work in Visby.

Urban Transition Zones

- Sustainable urban transformation in the context of a small historic city

The main aim of the seminar and workshop is to reflect and give suggestions on the development of two areas, the Inner Harbour and the East Centre, in direct proximity to the historic town and the medieval city wall.

We will, for example, look at:

- How we can create and develop urban space for seasonal flexibility.
- How we can create and develop urban space in the transitional area between the historic town centre and the modern city.

Proposals for the two workshop areas will be developed and presented to local politicians, colleagues and the press by the end of the seminar.

We are looking forward to see you in Visby in October!

Christian Hegardt,

City architect

Planning and Environmental Department,
Region Gotland



Programme

Sunday 21 October

19:30-22:00 Informal dinner at Clarion Hotel Kopparsalen. We provide an informal buffet dinner between 19:30-21:30. The bar will be open for drinks at own costs.

Monday 22 October

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|--------------|--|--------------------|---|
| 07:00 | Morning run around the old city wall (please let us know if you are joining us!) | 13:10 | Bus leaves outside the hotel for guided tour of Visby outside the city wall. |
| 8:30 | Registration at Spegelsalen Clarion Hotel. | 14:15 | Guided tour by foot to the workshop areas, divided in to two groups. Snacks will be available. |
| 9:00 | Opening – Welcome to Visby!
Head of UBC Planning Commission, Niels-Peter Mohr
Regional Director of Gotland, Peter Lindvall
Moderator Olle Jansson, Uppsala University | 16:30-17:00 | Get-together with your group members for the workshops. Quick informal mingle in the hotel lobby area just to get to know each other. |
| 9:30 | Introduction to Visby, planning actualities and challenges. | 18:00 | Meeting at hotel lobby for short walk to the evening activities. |
| 10:30 | Coffee break | 18:15 | Guided tour at Fornsalen the History Museum of Gotland where we explore the Medieval Hanseatic Town of Visby before dinner. |
| 11:00 | Managing Visby Unesco World Heritage – Elene Negussie World Heritage Site Manager. | 19:00-22:00 | Formal dinner with City representatives at the Picture Stone Hall at the History Museum of Gotland. |
| 11:20 | Introduction to the workshop areas. | | |
| 12:00 | Lunch at Clarion Hotel Kaptensrestaurangen. | | |



Tuesday 23 October

- 8:30** Key note lecture at Spegelsalen
(more information to come)
- 9:30** Workshop
- 10:15** Coffee break
- 10:45** Workshop
- 12:00** Lunch
- 13:00-15:45** Workshop
- 15:45** Coffee break
- 16:15-17:00** Workshop
- 18:30** Meeting at hotel lobby for short walk to evening activities.
- 19:00-00:00** Dinner at JODA with live music.

Wednesday 24 October

- 8:30** Workshop – final touch.
- 9:30-11:30** Group presentations in Spegelsalen. Local politicians, colleagues and media are invited.
- 11:30** Conclusions and summary. Moderator and Niels-Peter Mohr.
- 12:00** Grab a lunch to go

This is a preliminary programme, changes may occur.



Norderport

Visby

Gotland

Kruttornet

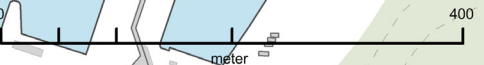
Inre hamnen
(Inner Harbour)

Conference centre
and hotel

Österport

Östercentrum
(East centre)

Söderport



Workshop area I

Inner Harbour

The port of Visby is located in close proximity to the historic town. Here, the medieval inner city meets the port and the sea. This is where you arrive if you visit the island by ferry or small boat, but also if you drive by car and follow the coast towards the city.

In the border zone between the port and the inner city, the inner harbour, there are large areas with less well-defined function. This is a resource and potential for development that could contribute to a more cohesive urban environment, as well as providing a new public quality to areas not currently required for port operations.

The attractive location inspires the use of the harbour for public buildings and functions. At the same time, the inner harbour is a public port with environmental permits for disturbing activities and will continue to

be so in the foreseeable future. New housing is not possible due to the proximity to the port, but new built structure could include offices, hotels and functions connected to the university campus and conference centre directly north of the harbour. The sea front in the areas has few obvious public functions today, and could become more well integrated in the public use of the city. The area is of great importance for events and tourism activities during high season but also for inhabitants, students and conference activities during low season. The seminar participants are encouraged to work with the possibilities of the inner harbour in the context of the whole city and port.

Region Gotland will soon start developing the inner harbour area and input from the seminar will be very valuable in this process.



Workshop area II

East Centre

The area outside the city wall of Visby was until the beginning of the 20th century a largely open and undeveloped rural landscape.

The historic countryside roads still lead to the wall gates beyond which the town has expanded during the last hundred years. At the eastern gate the East Centre was developed with shops, office space and parking lots during the 1960s and 1970s. The clash between historic and modern cityscape, different scale of development and different typologies of public space and built structure is here more obvious than anywhere else in Visby. This is a transition zone where new housing and well-designed public space could facilitate the development of the whole city centre and connect it better to the more low-density and suburban areas beyond.

New shopping centers, easily accessed by car, have been established further east of the city and good possibilities for car parking are considered important for a continued existence of the East Centre as a shopping district. The task for the seminar participants is to challenge established conceptions and bring ideas to how this central area best could be developed to a more attractive mix-use urban district.

Region Gotland will soon start developing the East Centre and input from the seminar will be very valuable in this process. The proximity of the area to the UNESCO World Heritage Site makes analysis of new building heights and level of densification close to the city wall important when looking at the possibilities.





Practical information

Registration

Please register for the seminar at our webpage:
www.gotland.se/ubc.

Last day for registration is September 17. The number of seats are limited and registration will close as soon as we have reached the limit of delegates.

Accommodation

Accommodation has been pre-booked at a special rate at Clarion Hotel Wisby where the seminar will take place. You book your hotel room on the same online form as your registration to the seminar.

Travel to Visby

Travelling to and from Visby is easy, either by air or by sea. The ferry to Gotland takes around three hours from Nynäshamn, outside Stockholm, or Oskarshamn in the county of Småland.

If you choose to fly to Gotland, there are direct connections from Stockholm-Arlanda and Stockholm-Bromma (flight time 35-45 minutes), Gothenburg and Malmö (flight-time 1 hour).

On Gotland, everything is nearby. The city of Visby is less than 10 minutes from the airport by taxi. When travelling to Visby by ferry you will arrive straight to the heart of Visby, only a few steps from the impressive World Heritage.

If you want help with your travel arrangements, please contact the congress secretariat. We will be happy to book your travel to Visby!

Contact: congress.gotland@resia.se

Meals

All meals during seminar hours and evening activities are included for participants.

Contact

For questions regarding the programme, please contact:

Christian Hegardt

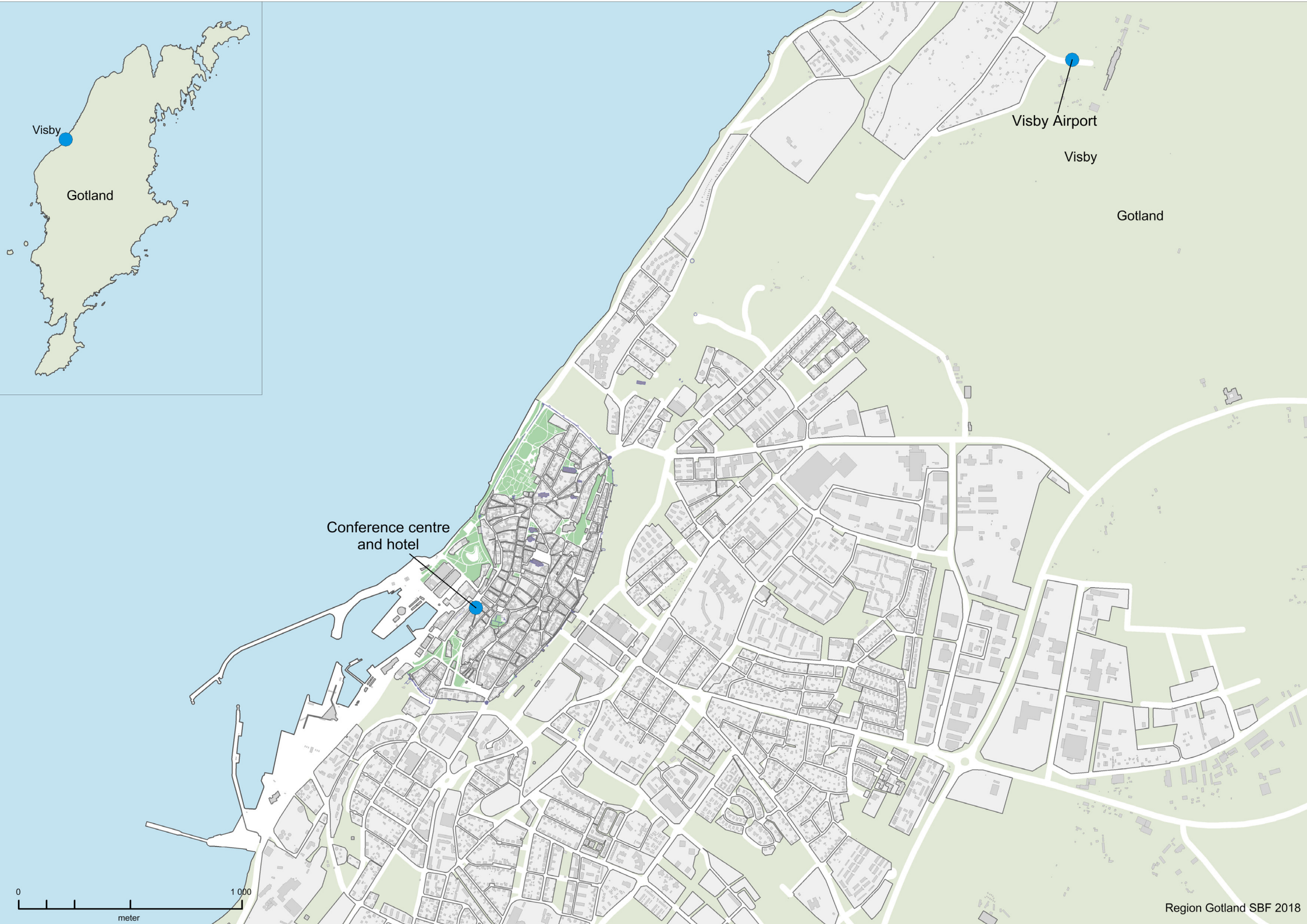
E-mail: christian.hegardt@gotland.se

For questions regarding your registration, hotel reservation, payment or travel to Visby, please contact the conference secretariat:

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Visby

Gotland

Visby Airport

Visby

Gotland

Conference centre
and hotel

