

Think
new things
Make
new connections

Programme

Artificial intelligence and national security in 2025

27 February – 1 March 2025

*Participants and observers are reminded of the private and confidential basis on which Ditchley Foundation discussions are held. All those participating do so in their personal capacities, not as spokespeople for any country or institution. All proceedings take place under the 'Ditchley Rule', whereby all contributions are unattributable and interventions are made in strict confidence; this also applies to exchanges that take place outside the formal sessions. Those present are free to draw afterwards on the substances of what has been said, but not under any circumstances to reveal to any person not participating in the discussion who it was that said it. The Rule will be scrupulously observed in any Note later produced on the discussion by Ditchley. The verbal discussions will **not** be recorded.*

A note about the programme:

A largely in-person/residential Ditchley event, with Ditchley's bespoke 'Bridge' technology permitting the inclusion, via Zoom, of invited speakers for the wrap up session.

Legend:

PDT US Pacific Daylight Time
EDT US Eastern Daylight Time
GMT Greenwich Mean Time
CET Central European Time

DITCHLEY

Day 1	Thursday 27 February
1230 GMT	Arrivals: Guests arriving by train will be collected from the 1053 GMT service from London Paddington , arriving at Charlbury Station at 1205 GMT .
1245 GMT	Lunch
1355 GMT	Participants take their seats in the Library .
Briefing	The state of AI: current capabilities and coming developments
1400 GMT	Welcome The Director opens the discussion and explains how proceedings will unfold. Introductions The Director introduces the Speakers. After introductory remarks from the Speakers, interventions are invited from the participants. Please raise your nameplate to indicate that you would like to speak. Your active participation in the discussion is encouraged.
1520 GMT	Closing remarks
1530 GMT	Tea in the Saloon and group photo outside (weather permitting).
1555 GMT	Participants take their seats in the Library .
PLENARY I	Developing threats and opportunities for national security
1600 GMT	Introductions The Director introduces the Speakers. After introductory remarks from the Speakers, interventions are invited from the participants. Please raise your nameplate to indicate that you would like to speak. Your active participation in the discussion is encouraged.
1720 GMT	Closing remarks
1730 GMT	Coffee in the Saloon
1755 GMT	Participants take their seats in the Library .

PLENARY II	Building resilient AI capabilities
1800 GMT	<p>Introductions</p> <p>The Director introduces the Speakers.</p> <p>After introductory remarks from the Speakers, interventions are invited from the participants.</p> <p>Please raise your nameplate to indicate that you would like to speak. Your active participation in the discussion is encouraged.</p>
1925 GMT	Closing remarks
1930 GMT	Close Drinks in the White Drawing Room
2000 GMT	Dinner <i>Seating plan displayed in the Hall</i>
2215 GMT	For those guests who will have been notified that they will be accommodated at The Bell hotel, transport leaves Ditchley for the hotel.
2245 GMT	Second and final vehicle leaves Ditchley for The Bell.

Day 2	Friday 28 February
0745 GMT	Transport leaves The Bell for Ditchley.
0800-0850 GMT	Breakfast
0855 GMT	Participants take their seats in their breakout groups .
Working Group discussions – Session One	
0900 GMT	<p>Group A Developing AI capabilities and supporting infrastructure</p> <p>Group B Defence, deterrence, arms control and ethics</p> <p>Group C Societal resilience and cohesion</p>
1030 GMT	Working group discussions end.
1030 GMT	Coffee in the Saloon / walk around the grounds
1125 GMT	Participants take their seats in the Library .

Working Group discussions – Session Two	
1130 GMT	<p>Group A Developing AI capabilities and supporting infrastructure</p> <p>Group B Defence, deterrence, arms control and ethics</p> <p>Group C Societal resilience and cohesion</p>
1230 GMT	Working group discussions end.
1230 GMT	Lunch
1355 GMT	Participants take their seats in the Library .
Plenary III	Reports from the Working Groups
1400 GMT	<p>Introductions The Director welcomes everyone back.</p> <p><i>The Rapporteur and Chair of each working group will provide the main points, as they see them, to have emerged from their discussion, before the remaining members of that group are invited to add their comments. Each session will last approximately 30 minutes.</i></p>
1415 GMT	Presentation of Group A’s discussions
1445 GMT	Presentation of Group B’s discussions
1515 GMT	Presentation of Group C’s discussions
1545 GMT	Discussion closes, followed by afternoon tea
1615 GMT	Participants take their seats in the Library .
PLENARY IV	Conference Rapporteur presentation
1620 GMT	<p>The Conference Rapporteur will provide their reflections on the discussions over the course of the conference, identify unresolved questions or areas where agreement was not reached, and highlight any conclusions or concrete recommendations that may have emerged.</p> <p>Brief final interventions from participants</p>
1655 GMT	Director’s closing remarks
1700 GMT	Conference closes
1700 GMT	Transport leaves for The Bell for those who wish to change for dinner.

Conference Briefing		
	The following session will bring an invited audience from the wider Ditchley community, via Zoom, to hear a presentation of the main findings, lines of discussion and conclusions (if any) from the discussion, and to participate in a Q&A, all subject to the Ditchley Rule.	
	In-person participants	Remote participants
1725 GMT	Panellists, and those wishing to participate, take their seats in the Library for a post-conference presentation to a wider Ditchley audience.	A Zoom Waiting Room will be in operation until the formal start time of 1600 GMT. You will be sent a separate Zoom link for this briefing.
1730 GMT	Briefing for an invited Ditchley audience, followed by a Q&A: <i>AI & National Security</i>	
1830 GMT	Briefing closes	
1900 GMT	Transport leaves The Bell for Ditchley	
1905 GMT	Optional House tour will leave from the White Drawing Room	
1915 GMT	Drinks in the White Drawing Room	
2000 GMT	Black-tie Dinner and overnight <i>Seating plan displayed in the Hall (kindly provide ample notice if you decide to withdraw from dinner)</i>	
2230 GMT	Transport leaves Ditchley for The Bell.	
2300 GMT	Second and final vehicle leaves Ditchley for The Bell.	

Day 3	Saturday 1 March
	Guests accommodated at The Bell:
0800 GMT	Breakfast at The Bell
0950 GMT prompt	Transport leaves The Bell for Charlbury station for the 1011 GMT service to London Paddington, arriving 1123 GMT .
	Shared transfers to Heathrow Airport arranged as necessary.
	Guests accommodated at Ditchley:
0800 GMT	Breakfast <i>(please place your luggage outside your door before you go to breakfast)</i>
0940 GMT prompt	Transport leaves Ditchley for Charlbury station for the 1011 GMT service to London Paddington, arriving 1123 GMT .
	The House will remain open until 1130 GMT for those who would like to take a walk in the grounds or continue their conversation.
	Transfers to Heathrow Airport are arranged according to need, with final departures by 11.30.

Luggage

It is helpful if your luggage is labelled with your name, so that your luggage may more easily be directed on arrival and departure.

If you are staying at The Bell:

On Thursday afternoon, your luggage will be transferred to the hotel, and our Staff will arrange your check in. You will receive your room key on Thursday afternoon and will have immediate access to your room on arrival after dinner on Thursday evening.

If you are staying at Ditchley:

Please place your baggage (other than hats, coats and hand luggage) outside your bedroom **by 8am** on Saturday, so that it may be collected and brought to the Hall ready for departure. Individual arrangements will be made should anyone need to leave earlier.

Please note: Luggage will be arranged in the Hall according to whether you are travelling by train, to the airport or by car. Please check that your luggage is in the correct place prior to your departure and avoid placing belongings in the vicinity of luggage destined for the station or airport if that is not where you are travelling.