

# Why is engineering seen as a man's job?

Forestry Engineering Group Annual Symposium  
4 September 2014

Dr Sarah Peers, NEF & WES

PhD MSc PGCE BSc(Hons) FRSA FWES MIET MIoD MIKE



**NEF**  
The Innovation Institute

**We believe in making a difference**

An independent foundation, professional body & do-tank supporting innovation & the development of scitech capability

- CPD and Innovation programmes
- Research, policy and advocacy
- Quality assurance & strategic improvement
- Knowledge and technology exchange

[www.thenef.org.uk](http://www.thenef.org.uk)





## Women's Engineering Society

- [www.wes.org.uk](http://www.wes.org.uk)
- We are a diverse group of people, with only two things in common...





**Inspiring, pioneering, engineering women**

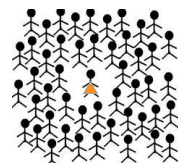
## Some questions

...?

Why are we even trying to attract women into engineering and forestry?  
How do we do it?  
Why does it matter?

## Is there a problem?

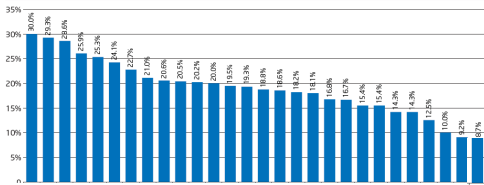
- "women are not suited to engineering"
- "forestry is not attractive"
- "you can't force people to take on jobs they don't want"
- And "is there REALLY a problem?"



### WHY women?

- 14% of engineering undergraduates
- <5% of engineering apprentices

Fig. 26.4: Proportion of female engineering professionals in EU countries



Source: UKRC's analysis of the European Labour Force Survey (2007)

### Some facts and figures

- Girls and women can “do” STEM
- The skills gap
- What about the forestry & agriculture sector?

57,300  
40,000  
20,000  
12,000  
52,609  
18,000  
41

### The STEM Pipeline



School x2

### What is the message?



### Engineering 4 U

- Resources and projects for the classroom: IET, IMechE, ICE, IDesEng, BCS, IoM3, IoExpEng, RINA, ...
- National Apprenticeships Service – for apprenticeships and higher apprenticeships
- STEM Ambassadors – STEMNET
- Big Bang and Science Week
- Teentech – regional megathons
- Engineering Development Trust – Headstart + Insight
- Women's Engineering Society – My Sparkling Career, resources for events, speakers
- Meet role models... other women who were just like you.

### HOW?

1. Tell them about engineering
2. Do some engineering with them
3. Give them opportunities...
4. ... and open up the “club”

## Why does it matter?

- There is a problem – a deep one, but the solution will help
  - Women
  - Employers
  - Society and Industry
- Increase diversity in forestry & engineering
  - > increase **innovation**



## Thank you

Dr Sarah Peers  
sarah@peersandpeers.co.uk

[www.wes.org.uk](http://www.wes.org.uk)