

“Wood, Water & Innovation: Building Resilience in Rural Environments”

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Smiths of Gretna

Events throughout the year at Smiths Hotel Gretna Green

Book your attendance here - <https://iagre.org/events/FEG-symposium-2025>

0930 – 1630hrs

0930 – 0940 Jock McKie – John Deere Scotland - FEG CHAIR INTRODUCTION

FEG Chairman will give his introduction.

0940 – 0950 Charlie Nicklin - CEO IAgrE - IAgrE Introduction

Why support this event. Why is CPD important?

Recent changes to the Engineering Council requirements mean that personal CPD has to be recorded and a selection of members will be audited every year by your Institution, this is an ideal opportunity to revisit the scope of what counts as CPD and why we do it.

0950 – 1030 Prof Dan Ridley-Ellis – Napier University - Once and Future Timber

There are many reasons to think about using a greater range of tree species for providing the wood that society needs - but what should those species be? What matters now, and what will matter in the future? Should we be changing the forest to provide the kind of wood we want, or should we be changing the wood to provide the kind of forest we want?

1030 – 1100 COMFORT BREAK with Tea, Coffee and Biscuit

SuDS – How SuDS effects work in the Rural Environment

1100 – 1130 Anna Cuanalo MICE - ARUP – An introduction to SuDS legislation

The Welsh Government committed to addressing surface water flooding and to look at achieving broader well-being goals by implementing Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in January 2019. What are the broad SuDS principles and the role of the SAB board, why was the Welsh Government an early adopter and will Scotland and England follow suit?

1130 – 1200 Felix Merry, Natural Resources Wales – Adaptations in Forestry Engineering to achieve SuDS consent

Proposed harvesting facilities and new forestry roads were not gaining SuDS consent from some of the SuDS Approval Boards, so a new approach was needed to overcome this hurdle. A reflection on a rethink on forestry engineering design processes and hydraulic modelling techniques.

1200 – 1230 Question time with morning speakers– Jock to Chair

1230 – 1330 LUNCH. Official committee and speakers Picture and time to check outside displays



Afternoon – Chair - Malcolm Cattermole - Past FEG Chair

1330 – 1400 Iwan Lloyd Williams MICfor – Forestry Consultant - FISA808 CDM in Forestry

FISA 808 - CDM in Relation to Forestry provides a summary for the Construction Design & Management (CDM) Regulations 2015 and how they apply to forestry-related construction work. During the talk we will look at the most common scenarios that fall within the regulations and what is expected to be completed by the Forestry Works Manager (FWM). We will also explore the relationship between FISA 808 and the Guidance of Managing Health and Safety in Forestry document.

1400– 1430 Chris Watson – Forestry Commission - Woodland resilience Advisor

Resilience- what do we mean, why does it matter and what it means for us?

Our forests and woodlands face an unprecedented range of pressures; climate change, pests, diseases and ecological decline to name a few. Despite these challenges, we have never expected more from our forests and woodlands. How we address these challenges and ensure the continued provision of services from them is the focus of work around resilience. We will discuss what challenges face productive forestry in particular, what some of the solutions may be and how this will impact forest operations in the future.

1430 – 1440 COMFORT BREAK

1440 – 1510 Neil Stodart – Sylvion Ltd - Methanol a fuel for the Future

At Sylvion Ltd we believe alternative future fuels need to come out of nozzle! Calling on experience gained through sister companies Creel Maritime Ltd, and Creel Maskina Ltd, Sylvion Ltd are progressing the production of low emission liquid Methanol from woodchips - focusing on delivery on a localised basis. This would be on a level whereby a production system with a relatively small footprint could be established in proximity to fuel end users / off takers such as ports / quarries, near major forestry production areas. We poised to enter the energy landscape and fit into sectors whereby use of electric and hydrogen will be constrained.

1510 – 1540 Graeme White – Forestry and Land Scotland - Replacing Timber Bridge decks with Precast Concrete Units

Timber decks have been used on forestry bridges for many decades; however these decks are no longer proving to be resilient. This talk will cover how FLS has started to replace these decks using precast concrete units as a longer-lasting and more durable solution.

1540 – 1610 Douglas Clark - William Clark & Sons (Parkgate) - 100 years of Engineering Innovation

Since 1924, William Clark & Sons (Parkgate) have been a major innovator and supplier to the forest industry. From humble beginnings as a local blacksmith, 4 generations have grown the company to a more global customer base whilst adhering to the core values and direction of the company. Douglas Clark shares the story of Clark Engineering

1610 – 1615 FEG Award Presentation – Jock McKie to Present Award

1615 – 1630 Question time and sum up - FEG Past Chair Malcolm Cattermole

1630 Close – Tea and Coffee being available for networking opportunities

