

# International Geosynthetics Society

## United Kingdom Chapter



IGS/Yorkshire Geotechnical Group

JOINT MEETING

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011

LT2, Sir Henry Stephenson Building, Sheffield University

5.30pm for 6.00pm

## SUSTAINABLE GEOSYSTEMS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING APPLICATIONS

**Niall Corney**  
(Huesker GmbH)

This presentation discusses the recently published Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) guidance on Geosystems. In the context of construction projects interfacing with the ground, the term Geosystem refers to the composite working system in the ground. This includes engineering input, soil and an engineered geo-component. The guide is designed to help everyone involved in developing construction solutions (clients, designers, contractors and regulators) to understand when, where and how ground engineering Geosystems can provide cost-effective and programme-efficient solutions which simultaneously cut both materials wastage and the carbon footprint of construction. The guidance identifies and illustrates opportunities to use Geosystems as an alternative to traditional construction methods, with attendant savings in cost and carbon. It also includes a range of case studies demonstrating the considerable advantages in this approach, particularly by allowing the use of lower specification site-won materials which would otherwise go to waste or may require the import of primary materials. A further key advantage demonstrated is the reduction in use of high carbon products such as steel and concrete, prevalent in traditional ground elements of construction such as retaining walls. Cost and carbon savings achieved within these case studies are quantified.

### Speaker Biography

Niall Corney is one of Huesker GmbH's International Area Managers with responsibility for the eastern Mediterranean and the Balkan territories. Niall has a BEng. Honours Degree in Civil Engineering from Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh. Since graduating he has been involved in civil engineering consulting and contracting in many countries including the United States, Hong Kong and the UK where he was lately the Geotechnical Team Leader in the major projects section of Capita Symonds Consultants, during which time he was a co-author of the WRAP Geosystems Guidance Document. He has over 15 years experience in the application and design of geosynthetics within the geotechnical side of major Civils projects.

**Chairman: Ian Fraser**  
Tensor International Ltd  
Tel: +44 (0)7733 001825  
Fax: +44 (0)1254 266841  
[ifraser@tensar.co.uk](mailto:ifraser@tensar.co.uk)

**Vice Chairman:**  
**Peter Assinder**  
Huesker Limited  
Tel: +44 (0)1746 769537  
Fax: +49 (0)2542 701482  
[petera@huesker.co.uk](mailto:petera@huesker.co.uk)

**Treasurer: Dr Gary Fowmes**  
Waste Recycling Group  
Tel: 02476 642970  
[gary.fowmes@wrg.co.uk](mailto:gary.fowmes@wrg.co.uk)

**Secretary: David Young**  
ABG Geosynthetics Ltd  
Tel: 01484 852 096  
Fax: 01484 354 825  
[david@abgltd.com](mailto:david@abgltd.com)

**Activities: Richard Moss**  
The Environment Agency  
Tel: 01925 543386  
Fax: 01925 852260  
[richard.moss@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:richard.moss@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Communications:**  
**Peter Langley**  
Geofabrics Limited  
Tel: 0113 202 5668  
Fax: 0113 202 5655  
[plangley@geofabrics.com](mailto:plangley@geofabrics.com)

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**Membership:**  
**Chaido Doulala-Rigby**  
Tensor International Limited  
Tel: 01254 266809  
Fax: 01254 266809  
[crigby@tensar.co.uk](mailto:crigby@tensar.co.uk)

**Andy Cracknell**  
Naue Geosynthetics Ltd  
Tel: 01925 810280  
Fax: 01925 810284  
[acracknell@naue.co.uk](mailto:acracknell@naue.co.uk)



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