

# International Geosynthetic Society

## United Kingdom Chapter



IGS/East Midlands Geotechnical Group

JOINT MEETING

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011

RT037-Frank Gibb/Civil Engineering Building,  
University of Loughborough, LE11 3TU

6.00pm for 6.30pm

## 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.

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