



THE CENTRAL SCOTLAND REGIONAL GROUP OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Notice of event: Tuesday 23rd January 2018

Room 5.09a, James Weir Building, Level 5,
75 Montrose Street, University of Strathclyde,
Glasgow, G1 1XJ

6.00pm for 6.15pm

DREAMING OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN ECOSYSTEMS: RESILIENCE OF GARDEN, PARK AND FOREST SOILS IN CONTAMINATED LANDSCAPES

Professor Andrew S Hursthouse

School of Science & Sport, University of the West of Scotland

The pressure on urban ecosystems to function under increased urban development is a widely appreciated factor in modern urban management. However, the beneficial impacts from 'nature based solutions' (NBS) are difficult to untangle when it comes directly to human health beyond the direct mechanism of exposure to potentially harmful substances. In some situations it appears that our traditional approach to remediation through development can clash with ecosystem principles and sustainability is widely used but seldom confirmed.

At the centre of the story are soil services performed under natural conditions or formed synthetically in response to urban disruption. Green space is the key land use where human interaction is most intense and is a strong component for development of NBS in the future. This presentation will review aspects of soil quality as part of international studies on the resilience and use of urban soils, highlighting lessons from marginal land, public open spaces and woodland as part of our pursuit of reliable and resilient urban infrastructure.

The presentation will be followed by the CSRG's AGM. If you are interested in standing for the committee, please contact tom.kelly@rskw.co.uk for a nomination form.

More information on the Central Scotland Regional Group can be found on our [webpage](#).



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Professor Andrew S Hursthouse

School of Science & Sport, University of the West of Scotland

Professor Andrew Hursthouse obtained his Ph.D. in Environmental Radioactivity at the University of Glasgow in 1989. He is professor of Environmental Geochemistry at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) with over 30 years' experience applying an earth-systems approach to research which covers the transport/behaviour of pollutants in the environment (air quality, land degradation and remediation, and aquatic biogeochemistry), evaluating their impact on ecosystems and for human health. He holds a high-end expert fellowship at the Regional Key Laboratory for Shale Gas Exploitation, Hunan University of Science & Technology, Xiangtan, China. He is a Trustee of Environmental Protection Scotland (<http://www.ep-scotland.org.uk/>) and Past President of the Society for Environmental Geochemistry & Health (www.segh.net).

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