

FOREWORD

Each year UKELA organises a conference. For many years now, they have been unique, educational and enjoyable! The 2003 and 2004 conferences were no different. The many different themes covered by the various sessions provided their own thought provoking discussion. We were also fortunate to have some enjoyable social events and the UKELA conference always provides an excellent opportunity for delegates to meet and socialise. Each year we hold a gala dinner and these prove to be spectacular occasions. In 2003 we were extremely fortunate to hold the dinner at the Eden Project. This has to be one of (if not the most) spectacular venue UKELA has ever visited. Holding a drinks reception in the temperate biome before dinner and then after dinner having the ability to walk through the humid biome to experience its tropical sensations by night will long be remembered by all those who attended. In Manchester 2004, the gala dinner was held in the impressive Imperial War Museum North.

Both years we had an excellent range of speakers and are grateful for the care that went into the preparation of their papers. Special thanks, however, must go to the conference organisers and sponsors. Sarah Holmes (Bond Pearce), Simon Payne (University of Plymouth) and Keith Davidson (Cobbetts) put in a tremendous amount of time. UKELA is extremely grateful to them for their efforts and commitment and the support of their respective firms/university. Each year the UKELA conference could not be as grand as they are without the support of our numerous sponsors. We are grateful to all those who provided sponsorship and, in particular, to Landmark Information Group, Lexis Nexis, Environ, Landmark Chambers, WSP Active Transfer, 45 Grays Inn Square, 39 Essex Street, The Environment Agency, Argyll Environmental, ERM, Groundsure, Quanta and XL Insurance. These organisations, along with various others, made the conferences possible.

Once again, I am particularly pleased we have been able to publish this volume so that the conference papers can go to a wider audience. To this end, Professor Bob Lee, Elen Stokes and Bethan Wright at Cardiff University have put in a tremendous amount of work pulling all the papers together.

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