

Structural Engineers Declare summit 2026

Thursday 8 October, 13:00 – 17:45 BST, London HQ & online

12:15 **Registration, networking and lunch**

13:00 **Welcome and introduction from the chair**
Bryony Benn, Elliott Wood

Welcome from IStructE
Tom Hesslenberg, IStructE

Session 1: Keynote presentation

13:15 **Leading the change**
Julia Barfield, Marks Barfield Architects and Architects Declare

Since helping to establish Architects Declare in 2019, Julia Barfield has been at the forefront of challenging the built environment industry to respond to the climate emergency.

In this keynote, Julia will reflect on how the industry's response has evolved and explore what it takes to lead meaningful change. She will consider the design approaches and behaviours needed to work within planetary limits, and how the profession can adapt, thrive and co-evolve in response to the challenges ahead.

Session 2: Challenges and solutions

13:45 **Social and climate justice - child labour impacts in construction materials**
Brogan MacDonald, Structural Engineers Declare

Child labour affects an estimated 138 million children worldwide, yet it remains a largely overlooked risk within construction supply chains. While the built environment sector has made significant progress addressing carbon, biodiversity and modern slavery, child labour presents a distinct challenge that is often missed by existing due diligence processes.

The session will explore the findings of the new report, Impacts of Child Labour in Construction Materials: Guidance for Built Environment Professionals.

14:05 **Are we using the right metrics?**
Paul Astle, Ramboll
Edward Hoare, Arup

This presentation will question whether the metrics currently used by the profession, including those used to assess embodied carbon, give us the full picture and consider what may be missing from the way we measure impact.

14:30 **Early career professionals' presentations**

- **Hybrid bridges**
Navamon Udyanin, Tony Gee and Partners

- **Re-Bridge**
Camille Chevrier, Format Engineers

14:50 **Q&A**

Session 3: Regenerative design in practice

15:05 **Regenerative architecture index**
Bryony Benn, Elliott Wood

What does regenerative design mean in practice, and how can its principles influence the way we approach our projects?

This interactive session will use the Regenerative Architecture Index as a starting point to consider regenerative design in practice and encourage discussion around how these principles can be applied to the work we do.

15:50 **Refreshment break**

Session 4: Industry updates

What developments across materials, policy and technology are shaping more sustainable approaches to design and construction?

This session will bring together a series of short industry updates, looking at current developments in concrete, steel and timber, alongside emerging approaches to automation, reuse and circular economy policy.

16:10 **Concrete: update on low carbon concrete trials AC-DG**
Laura Batty, Accelerating Concrete Decarbonisation Group

16:15 **Steel: UK steel strategy tariffs SteelZero**
Sameen Khan, Climate Group

16:20 **Timber: update on the Timber in Construction Roadmap**
Charlie Law, TDUK

16:25 **Robots and local timber: Automated Design to Manufacture for Sustainable Housing**
Sophie Collier, Automated Architecture

16:30 **Reuse policy: the draft London plan from a circular economy perspective**
Andy Yates, The Engineers Reuse Collective

16:35 **Q&A**

Session 5: The future of the profession

16:50 **What does the industry expect from structural engineers, and how might the profession need to evolve?**
Diego Padilla Philipps, WSP (Moderator)
Alexia Laird, Landsec
Vicky Wong, Multiplex

In this interview, two industry guests will consider what climate and technological change could mean for structural engineering, exploring the changing expectations of the profession and the skills, priorities and approaches that may be needed in the future.

17:35 **Closing remarks and event summary**
Edward Hoare, Arup

Conference closes

17:45 **Networking drinks reception**

This programme is subject to change.
