The three presentations provided a wide range of thought-provoking insights into the world of timber treatment.

Dave Mills of BSW Timber commented: “I feel that in order to improve the overall preservative treatment quality with incising machinery there is a lot of room for additional independent studies. Results from such studies would considerably help to further improve trust in the desired service life of quality treated timber for in-ground contact.”

There’s no doubt that the issue of incising is slowly moving up the timber treatment agenda and, despite the current low take up in the UK with just an estimated ten machines in operation, it will continue to grow as a process for improving the effectiveness of various treatments.

The final half day was spent looking at Bergstimber Bitus in Nybro, one of the largest and most impressive treatment businesses in Europe with 11 treatment tanks and new, innovative treatments, such as Royal (hot linseed oil after-treatment) and Wolman® System Silvergrey.

BASF Wolman GmbH, headquartered in southern Germany, is one of the major wood preservative suppliers in the European continent and is fast making inroads into the massive UK market. Sales managers Richard Gulland (covering Scotland and the north of England) and Kerry Mihailovich (southern England and Wales) are those charged with maintaining that momentum on these shores.

Feedback to the Wolman event was overwhelmingly positive: “The Wolman Swedish conference was a useful trip as well as an opportunity to meet the Wolman team and to understand their business. It was extremely beneficial to reflect on some of the issues being faced by the timber treatment market, meet some of the other organisations and businesses in our sector facing the same challenges and also to visit a Swedish site focused on timber treatment. I learnt a few things that will be useful in steering our business going forward.”

Steven Sutton from Fountain Timber Products added: “Both myself and my colleague Chris benefited from attending the event which was very informative and well organised. We appreciated the knowledge and professionalism of all the Wolman personnel present who invited us at every opportunity and made the event very inclusive. Their goal appears to be to continually improve existing preservation treatments and develop new products and finishes creating opportunities for their customers and end users.”

“The most pleasing aspect of the event was their desire to assist their customers by sharing knowledge, expectation and best practice in the industry. Having spent this time with the Wolman team, the effort they put into providing innovative and quality products and first class customer service is obvious and second to none,” added Steven.
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