

SUMMARY

- WEI has a treated wood advocacy project
- Arxada draws on 100+ years of industry experience
- European regulations are tightening on active ingredients used in wood preservation
- Arxada has a creosote alternative called Tanasote

PRESERVING WOOD USE

TTJ caught up with Arxada EMEA marketing director Andy Hodge to get his thoughts on the timber treatments sector and some of the opportunities and challenges treatments face in the future



Above: Tanasote treated utility poles

The timber treatment sector has been a big focus point for the wood industry in recent years, with product innovation, changes in regulation and educational campaigns to improve specification of treated wood products.

Andy Hodge, marketing director for the wood preservatives manufacturer Arxada (producer of Tanalith treated timber), believes it is a turning point for treated timber. Having worked in the sector for over 40 years, he sees how the sector needs to continue to evolve to meet market demand, champion timber's sustainability credentials and navigate Europe's increasingly tightening regulations on active ingredients.

Mr Hodge, an executive board member of the European Institute for Wood Preservation (WEI-IEO), reported first on recent market conditions.

"During Covid we had two good years of industry demand, before a market correction. Last year we had a particular challenging time due to weather; particularly construction and agricultural markets have been condensed because of the wet conditions. However, overall trading has been at a reasonable level. There has been a lot of treated timber sold and there will be again this year."

He predicted 2025 treated timber trading in the UK to be similar to 2024, with a bigger uplift coming in 2026.

Mr Hodge updated on an exciting WEI-IEO treated wood advocacy project.

"We're working together and gathering resources in an advocacy project aimed