



HOW THINGS WORK GROUP March 2024

On 22nd March fifteen of us were shown round much of the Engineering School of Southampton University, Boldrewood Innovation Campus. This has a tremendously impressive range of equipment for teaching and research which many of the staff and students gave up time to demonstrate enthusiastically to us. Work included fracture testing of huge girders to designing seats for mobility scooters, propulsion of Solent ferries to reducing noise from airliners. Our primary aim was to see the largest Wave and Towing tank of any UK University, a vast 138 m in length used to study the movement through water of different hull designs, propellers, swim suits and more. We rode along the tank on the control bridge while all was explained to us. However, on a contrasting note to all this massive man-made equipment, we were told that nine years ago the tank was designed to be 140m but lost 2 meters because a tree with a preservation order was in the way. Our thanks to our guide Dr Roberto Olvera and his colleagues.