

## Rothamsted to collaborate with new £3 million digital twin research network

The funding, secured by The Alan Turing Institute, will encourage new partnerships on and innovation through a UK-wide digital twin research network across academia, industry and other stakeholders

Rothamsted is helping to administer a £3 million grant awarded to The Alan Turing Institute by UKRI to help transform the UK's national capability in digital twinning.

The funding will help establish a UK-wide inter-disciplinary research network with stakeholders from academia, government and industry. It builds on the Turing's established expertise in digital twins, such as the recently announced Turing Research and Innovation Cluster in Digital Twins (TRIC-DT).

The network will help Rothamsted develop its North Wyke Farm Platform digital twin project. The site is the UK's most measured livestock farm, and the creation of a digital twin will enable researchers to test new hypothesises on how changes in farm practices could improve the sustainability of grassland livestock systems. "The new network is really significant," said Prof Chris Baker, head of Intelligent Data Ecosystems at Rothamsted and on the executive committee of the new project. "It will catalyse collaboration with a range of new partners opening up exciting opportunities to build our capacity and learn from what others are doing."

The new network community has been identified as urgently needed to fill gaps in the underpinning research relating to digital twins. The award will run for five years and will help develop game-changing breakthroughs that will lead to a new generation of intelligent, resilient, and trusted digital twins.

## Net-zero Cabinet Secretary sees SRUC climate research in action

Mairi McAllan MSP with SRUC Professor Wayne Powell during her visit to SRUC Barony, Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition has been learning about some of the cutting-edge climate change research being carried out at SRUC. On a visit to the Barony Campus near Dumfries, Mairi McAllan MSP also found out more about the SRUC-led Digital Dairy Chain, as well as the organisation's work with NatureScot to deliver a unique peatland restoration course.

Meeting with senior staff at SRUC, including Professor Wayne Powell,

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identified as urgently needed to fill gaps in the underpinning research relating to digital twins. Principal and Chief Executive; Provost Jamie Newbold and Mary Thomson, Vice-Principal – Skills and Lifelong Learning, Ms McAllan saw first-hand SRUC's investment in disruptive technology, including its N2 Unit.

The N2 Unit uses revolutionary technology to practically eliminate methane and ammonia emissions from slurry production. Infrastructure is now in place, with the unit expected to be fitted later this year.

On a tour of the campus,

Ms McAllan was shown how SRUC is blending its forestry, woodland and environmental expertise to optimise land management practices, while it is also undertaking proof of principle research into on-farm hydrogen generation utilising renewable sources of energy and waste water.



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