

#### NATIONAL WIND TUNNEL FACILITY

# ABL Funnel

University of Birmingham, Birmingham







(Joseph, G.M.D. et al., 2020. Determination of crop dynamic and aerodynamic parameters for lodging prediction. *Journal of Wind Engineering and Industrial Aerodynamics* 202, 104169. doi:<u>10.1016/j.jweia.2020.104169</u>)

#### **Pedestrian-level wind comfort**

- High-rise developments in urban centres have caused uncomfortable and even dangerous conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and other user of the surrounding area.
- Planning permission for high-rise urban development often requires assessment of the effect of the proposed development on the local wind field
  Research into how well physical (wind tunnel) and numerical modelling perform when used for these..

# **Crop Lodging**

- Wind lodging (stem breakage or uprooting due to strong winds) causes hundreds of millions of pounds worth of damage in the UK alone.
- Lodging models developed at the University of Birmingham (UoB) require an understanding of the crop aerodynamic parameters.
- The flexibility of the wind tunnel configuration has allowed unique wind tunnel tests on a range of crops to determine the parameters needed for successful modelling of the problem.
- Based on these models, advice on planting and cultivation is provided to farmers.



## **OLE Conductors**

- Electrification of the UK rail network is an important part of reducing the carbon footprint of UK transport.
- Design of overhead lines requires understanding of the aerodynamic properties of the cables used, in particular the drag coefficient and it changes with cable type, yaw angle and other parameters.
- As part of a Network Rail project, wind tunnel tests were used in conjunction with computational fluid dynamics and finite element modelling to quantify cable drag coefficients under a range of



conditions, and the impact of this on overhead line infrastructure design.

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