

Notice: RH14 0LJ, Penfold Verrall Limited: environmental permit application advertisement

The Environment Agency consults the public on certain applications for waste operations, mining waste operations, installations, water discharge and groundwater activities. The arrangements are explained in its [Public Participation Statement](#)

These notices explain:

- what the application is about
- how to view the application documents
- when you need to comment by

The Environment Agency will decide:

- whether to grant or refuse the application
- what conditions to include in the permit (if granted)

Guidance: Use of manufactured topsoil: RPS 190

Updated: Corrections: 1) Manufactured topsoil must be used as a soil substitute for landscaping purposes. 2) Manufactured topsoil must not be used at depths greater than 300mm.

If you comply with the conditions of this regulatory position statement (RPS) you can use up to 1,000 tonnes of manufactured topsoil without an environmental permit.

This RPS will be reviewed by April 2018. You'll need to check back then to see if it still applies.

[News story: UK sign Le Bourget Momentum at the Paris Air Show](#)

On 21 June 2017 at the Paris Air Show, the Defence Safety Authority Chief Technical Officer Rear Admiral Rick Thompson RN signed the Le Bourget Momentum on behalf of the Military Aviation Authority (MAA).

The stated aim of Le Bourget Momentum, a French Direction de la Sécurité Aéronautique d'État (DSAÉ) initiative, is to improve the efficiency of Recognition of another National Military Airworthiness Authority (NMAA) by minimising the number of NMAA interactions.

The Recognition of another NMAA is a process by which an informed and auditable judgement can be made on the extent to which another NMAA's activities or products would be acceptable to the Recognising NMAA.

Signing Le Bourget Momentum represents an intent for deeper defence co-operation across participating nations, in order to increase the output of defence spending and to optimise the use of national resources to enhance the level of safety in military air operations.

Nations who participated in the signing of Le Bourget Momentum included: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

The MAA currently have Recognition Agreements in place with NMAA of the following countries: France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the USA (Army, Navy and Air Force).

[Consultation outcome: Banning UK sales of ivory](#)

Updated: Summary of responses added including a policy statement setting out the basis on which the government intends to introduce a ban on UK ivory sales.

We are seeking views on our proposal to introduce a total ban on UK sales of ivory that could contribute either directly or indirectly to the continued poaching of elephants. We are asking for evidence on the effect the proposed ban will have. This includes its effect on elephant conservation, the natural environment and businesses, as well as its economic and cultural effect.

The ban will be subject to some strictly defined exemptions. We want evidence about the scope of the proposed exemptions and how they could operate. We also want evidence on how the ban should be enforced and the sanctions that should be applied.

[Press release: 100 year old retired scientist makes an emotional return to Porton Down](#)

During the week of his 100th birthday, a former Porton Down scientist returned for a surprise and emotional visit – almost 40 years after his retirement. The visit was arranged by his son John and staff at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl).

As a specialist scientist, Gilbert spent his entire working life at the site spanning the Second World War through to the Cold War between 1940 and 1978. His work at the time was cutting edge and involved working mainly in chemical warfare developing respirators to protect troops as well as the civilian population.

He also worked on shark repellents and dispersion involving several sea-going trials in the 1960s. Gilbert's son, John, says he was a brave man who would often put himself forward for the most dangerous of missions and studies – all in a bid to protect the United Kingdom, its population and its Armed Forces.

As one of Porton's oldest surviving retired scientists, Gilbert met with the newest Porton Down recruit, engineering apprentice Christopher King, who said:

It was a real honour to meet Gilbert and incredible to hear about the history of Dstl. I love history, engineering and science, so it's a big deal to meet someone who's been working on previous technology, systems and science. It's also amazing to see how much technology has progressed. I only started my apprenticeship in September and who knows – my career could span as long as Gilbert's.

Gilbert was given the VIP treatment, visiting some of the most innovating parts of the Dstl site, including [Porton Man](#), a robot mannequin that helps test the next generation of chemical and biological protective suits for the UK Armed Forces.

On witnessing how technology has advanced since his time at Porton Down, Gilbert said:

Oh, it's unbelievable. I never expected so much fuss. I was surprised that my son John had actually approached the station, because I knew it was extremely difficult to come in here – I was really surprised and I've had such a marvellous time. It's tremendously different now from when I was here – I'm amazed to see how much has changed. The work that is done now to protect the UK is incredible – there is no question about its importance.

[Gilbert speaks about his visit to Porton Down](#)

Many of the scientists were extremely excited by the visit and were keen to hear about the legacy work that Gilbert was involved in.

Colin Willis, a Principal Adviser in Chemical Protection and Detection at Dstl, said:

It was an absolute pleasure to meet Gilbert and to have spoken to him, and particularly to hear some of his stories. We shouldn't forget that without a lot of the research done by Gilbert and his generation we would not be able to do much of the work we do today. The work he did was essential and we are using the results of that to help provide better defence for the UK Armed Forces.

Gilbert was presented with a framed certificate of appreciation for his contribution to science, as well as a signed book about the history of Porton Down. It was indeed a special day for Gilbert, who was visibly moved at the end of his visit.