

Change dominates discussion at SRUC/Teagasc Rural Futures Conference

Farming cannot look like it does now in one or two generations' time.

Guidance: Protected food name: Scottish Wild Venison

Updated: Removed the details of the consultation as this has now closed.

This document provides detail on a food product from the UK, Scottish Wild Venison, which is being considered under the EU protected food names scheme.

The EU protected food name scheme covers regional and traditional foods whose authenticity and origin can be guaranteed.

The EU will only give a product the PGI mark if they decide it has a reputation, characteristics or qualities that are a result of the area it's associated with.

New board created for the British Geological Survey

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and British Geological Survey (BGS) have today announced the membership of the first BGS Board.

Consultation outcome: Animal welfare: banning the use of electronic training

collars for cats and dogs

Updated: Added the summary of responses and government response.

We want to know what you think about our proposal to ban the use of electronic training collars for cats and dogs.

Electronic training collars (e-collars) are corrective behaviour devices which allow electronic shocks to be applied to pets by their owners.

To protect the welfare of cats and dogs, we wish to ban their use by introducing regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

News story: Record-breaking turbines leave Wylfa

Wylfa is seeking a new home for 5 ageing back-up generators whose illustrious cousin, the Rolls-Royce Proteus Gas Turbine Generator, famously powered Donald Campbell's Bluebird CN7 as it smashed the world land speed record in 1964.

The first 4 generators, each capable of 3MW output, provided essential standby electricity in the event that normal supplies were lost.

In 1983, a fifth Proteus turbine was installed to provide additional power to Wylfa's Secondary Dry Store Cells, used to hold spent nuclear fuel after being removed from the reactors.

They were believed to be the last remaining Proteus Gas Turbines in use anywhere in the world but, after 47 years of faithful service, they were stood down on 20 January 2018.

When electricity generation at Wylfa ended in 2015 the site's Electrical Overlay System was capable of providing back-up electricity supplies and there was no further need for the gas turbines.

The Proteus engine has a distinguished history: having seen naval service in fast torpedo boats, powered the Bluebird CN7 car used by Donald Campbell to break the world land speed record in 1964, powered cross-channel hovercraft until 2000 and provided essential supplies to Magnox's Oldbury Power Station in Gloucestershire.

The gas turbines will be disconnected and all potential hazards removed, such as oils and batteries, before the asset disposals team sets about finding

them a new home.