

More sustainable way to refurbish reed beds is trialled

For the first time the Coal Authority has replanted existing reeds – rather than planting new ones – when refurbishing a reed bed at one of our mine water treatment schemes.

The experiment could offer sustainability benefits while also saving time and money, and it is hoped that many more of our sites across Britain could benefit from this approach in the future.

The trial is part of a series of operational changes made at our Deerplay scheme – which removes iron from water pumped out of the former colliery of the same name near Bacup in Lancashire – to improve the discharge into the River Irwell.

Reed beds are used as the final stage of the treatment process, to filter out remaining finer iron particles, but over time the resulting ochre build-up affects their performance and they need ‘desludging’.

At Deerplay, uneven reed growth was also creating preferential flow paths, which allowed water to run through the bed too quickly for effective treatment.

Previously when we have refurbished a scheme, new reeds have been used – but if these are young they can’t be planted until early spring and take longer to establish, while if they are mature they are more expensive and can struggle to adopt to the harsh environment.

Ian Osborne, project manager from our environment team, said:

The existing reeds were flourishing in places, so we knew they had already adapted to the challenging weather conditions and mine water quality.

As we started work in October 2018, transplanting them helped us to meet the project timescale.

This has also extended the life of the reeds, cutting waste disposal costs and reducing land fill emissions.

Desludging work was carried out in 3 sections, to enable the reeds to be trimmed and transplanted as clusters, with nutrient-rich top soil to enhance growth.

The reed bed was brought back online in 3 stages, while being continuously monitored and maintained, and is currently operating at full flow.

It won't be known until the end of the growing season, in September, how effective the new technique has been, but the reeds are in good condition and growing well.

[title of video](#)

Members of our Deerplay project team will be attending the Constructed Wetland Association annual conference, where you can talk to them about our wide range of environmental work and how it ties in with the government's [25 Year Environment Plan](#) and the United Nations' 17 global Sustainable Development Goals.

The event, Wastewater Management and Beyond, takes place at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 July.

[Sir Stephen O'Brien named as new DIT Board member](#)

Following an open and competitive recruitment process, the Department for International Trade (DIT) has appointed Sir Stephen O'Brien as a Non-Executive Board Member for a three-year term from June 2019.

Sir Stephen's experience as a former International Development Minister and more recently as the United Nations' Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs will complement the Board's existing and extensive business experience as DIT advances trade and development initiatives to grow developing economies sustainably through trade.

Julie Currie and Lead Non-Executive Board Member Simon Walker's terms of office, which were due to end in November, have been renewed for a further three years.

Welcoming Sir Stephen's appointment, International Trade Secretary Dr Liam Fox MP said:

I am delighted to welcome Sir Stephen to the DIT Board. His expertise in leading development and humanitarian programmes in government and in the United Nations is a vital addition to the team as we grow our role in providing official development assistance through trade.

In the last 25 years, free trade has increased prosperity, lifting a billion people out of poverty. That prosperity is the basis for

social stability, which in turn provides political stability – underpinning our global security.

I am very grateful to Dr Pippa Malmgren for her exceptional hard work and service to DIT over the last few years. I wish her well in her business venture.

My thanks also go to Julie Currie and Simon Walker, who play a pivotal role in the DIT Board, and I look forward to continue working with them.

Sir Stephen O'Brien said:

I am delighted that the Secretary of State has decided to appoint me to the Board and greatly look forward to working with them.

The Board is the senior governance forum providing leadership for DIT's business. It is chaired by the Secretary of State.

ENDS

Notes to editors

Biography: The Rt Hon Sir Stephen O'Brien KBE

Sir Stephen O'Brien has significant international and UK legal, industrial, business (executive and non-executive) and political experience, as well as relevant development experience. He served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development from 2010 – 2012. Most recently, he was the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. He is currently Chairman of Motability Operations Group PLC and Vice-Chairman of Savannah Petroleum PLC.

[UN Human Rights Council 41: Statement under Item 2](#)

Thank you Mr President

The United Kingdom welcomes the High Commissioner's report.

We express our deep condolences for the many people killed in the appalling attacks in Sri Lanka over Easter. We stand in solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka and stress the need for an inclusive response that builds trust

among all communities, including respect for freedom of religion or belief. We urge Sri Lanka to maintain its moratorium on the use of the death penalty

We remain deeply concerned by serious human rights violations and abuses in Cameroon's North and South-West regions, and the further narrowing of political space. We note Cameroon's openness to engaging with the UN on human rights, but this must now be matched by a credible political dialogue that addresses the root causes of conflict.

We urge the Philippines to conduct thorough investigations into all killings associated with the war on drugs, and to ensure the safety of human rights defenders and media professionals. We strongly urge against any re-instatement of the death penalty.

In Vietnam, we are concerned about restrictions on freedom of expression and on media freedom. We encourage the acceptance of our recent UPR recommendations. We welcome Vietnam's commitment to use its UNSC seat to address the legacy of conflicts and to support women, peace and security issues.

Kem Sokha's continuing detention without trial in Cambodia is of grave concern. We urge Cambodia to maintain open and constructive dialogue with the EU on Everything But Arms trade procedures, to prevent negative impacts on the most vulnerable.

In Nicaragua, we welcome the release of political prisoners, and call for any remaining in custody to be freed. We are concerned that the recent amnesty law suppresses free speech and provides impunity to perpetrators of violent repression.

I echo the High Commissioner's comments about Hong Kong. We welcome the decision to suspend the extradition bill indefinitely, but events of the past week show that large sections of Hong Kong's public remain concerned. We encourage dialogue between all sides.

Thank you.

[Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire: 25 June 2019](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content]Queen appoints Mr James Dick as Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Joanna Kennedy reappointed as Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery

Joanna Kennedy chairs the project board for the National Portrait Gallery's Inspiring People redevelopment. She is a civil engineer and project manager who has advised clients on and led the successful delivery of numerous major construction projects. She was a director and the global leader for programme and project management with Arup, where her projects included the Francis Crick Institute, the Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre, the Horniman Museum and the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. She helped create the firm's project management business which twice won Project Management Company of the Year. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1997 and has been Woman of the Year in the Inspire Awards for the Built Environment and CBI/Real Business First Woman of Engineering.

Kennedy is a non-executive director of Native Land Ltd and of the ERA Foundation, and her previous appointments have included trustee of the Science Museum and of Cumberland Lodge, deputy chairman of the Port of London Authority, commissioner of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 and chair of Buildings and Estates at the Royal College of Art. She was awarded the OBE in 1995 for services to consulting engineering.

This role is not remunerated. This appointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Joanna has made no such declarations.