

Animal medicine improvement notice: Wynnstay Group

News story

Details of the improvement notice served to Wynnstay Group, Llansantffraid, Powys.



This notice was served to Wynnstay Group by a VMD Inspector during an unannounced inspection.

The following contravened the Veterinary Medicines Regulation (VMR) 2013:

Failure to comply with Schedule 5, paragraph 5(2) of the VMR, specifically with regards to the Feed Hygiene Regulations (EC183/2005) which requires feed processing and storage facilities, equipment, containers, crates, vehicles and their immediate surrounds to be kept clean and effective pest control programmes to be implemented.

The improvements required are:

- perimeters cleaned
- disposal of rubbish
- neglected areas and gaps allowing vermin entry attended to
- fat leakages repaired
- water ingress
- residue build up removed

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Migration Advisory Committee members extend terms

News story

Dr Jennifer Smith and Professor Jackline Wahba have agreed to extend their terms as members of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC).



Both of their terms have been extended to end on 14 February 2021.

It comes as the MAC have been commissioned to review the Intra-Company Transfer (ICT) route and produce their first annual report at the end of this year.

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Minister Hala Al-Saeed meets with British Ambassador

Dr. Hala Al-Saeed, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, said that the economic and social reform program that was implemented in 2016 contributed to improving indicators and strengthened resilience, noting that these reforms would lead to macroeconomic stability, inclusiveness and sustainable growth.

Al-Saeed pointed to investing heavily in developing the infrastructure in order to enhance the competitiveness of the Egyptian economy and place it on the investment map, stressing that this successful economic program, which was praised by all international institutions, has effectively contributed to improving all economic indicators and strengthening the resilience of the

Egyptian economy.

Al-Saeed pointed out that the Egyptian government adopted a proactive strategy very early, as it took all necessary measures to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis on the most vulnerable segments of the population, as the main objectives were to contain the spread of the virus without imposing a complete closure, and to support economic activity through sector-specific measures, together with worker support, ensuring income stability, closely monitoring developments related to the crisis and updating forecasts accordingly.

Al-Saeed said that since February 24 until now, the Egyptian government has issued more than 380 policies implemented by 70 institutions targeting all social groups and sectors, confirming Egypt's endeavour to support sectors that have witnessed negative effects of partial closure measures, to include these sectors: tourism, aviation, small and medium enterprises, and agriculture.

Al-Saeed added that some of the policies adopted by the state focused on supporting economic activity with the aim of boosting domestic demand, especially since it is the first time that a shock affects the supply and demand side at the same time, adding that support for informal workers was also central to the Egyptian state's strategy, as the state disbursed a cash grant and established a database for these workers to enable them to find decent jobs.

With regard to the monetary measures taken by the Central Bank to help the recovery, Al-Saeed explained that these measures included lowering interest rates, postponing credit entitlements and repaying loans to the tourism sectors and small and medium-sized companies.

On the fiscal year 2020/2021 plan, Al-Saeed indicated that the Egyptian government continues to increase public investments to implement new projects and provide better services, stressing that the Covid-19 pandemic prompted the Egyptian state to rearrange its priorities, which led to an increased focus on specific sectors and activities such as health, digitization, infrastructure, agriculture, industrialization and the green economy. She added that the plan focuses on ensuring that compatibility with the principles of the green economy in national investment projects reaches 30% and then 100% over the next three years, in a manner that ensures sustainable development, and attaches great importance to recycling and waste management in order to mitigate harmful environmental impacts.

From his side, the British Ambassador praised Egypt's efforts in building a greener economy, especially after its successful first sovereign green bonds issuance on the London Stock Exchange. The UK and Egypt have been working together to tackle climate change and will continue to intensify climate collaboration leading up to United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), to be hosted in the United Kingdom next year. Both parties also addressed Egypt's economic and investment plans, noting also the recent appointment of Sherine Shohdy as the first country director of CDC Group to be based in Egypt. CDC is the UK's development finance institution, and has previously

invested in Egypt's and Africa's biggest solar park, Benban, and provided US\$100 million of Tier 2 capital to the Commercial International Bank (Egypt). Dr El Said and Sir Geoffrey welcomed the potential for further UK-Egypt partnership and engagement in the investment sector, particularly on green projects.

The British Ambassador to Egypt, Sir Geoffrey Adams said:

I was delighted to meet Minister of Planning Dr Hala El Said, to discuss UK-Egypt partnership in the field of economic development. The UK is committed to deepening that partnership, as Egypt moves ahead with its economic reform programme.

Seawick sea defences project

Press release

The Environment Agency's £1.1 million scheme to improve the resilience of the sea defences at Seawick, Essex has started.



Under construction – the rock armour is positioned

The Environment Agency has started work on erosion protection to Seawick sea defences, which will help protect homes, businesses, caravans and holiday chalets from flooding.

The work now underway will reduce the risk of erosion to the existing sea defences by placing rock armour around the sea wall at Hutley's Gap and along a 250m section in front of the Bel Air Chalet Estate.

By improving the defences, the low lying area behind the seawall will be better protected from sea flooding and the severe impact that it can have on people, properties and the local economy, which relies heavily on tourism.

Tom Stanley, Environment Agency Project Manager, said:

The Seawick sea defences project will benefit the local area into the future by better protecting the current seawall from erosion and enhancing biodiversity in the process.

In carrying out this work now we are extending the life of the existing seawall in the most cost effective way. Without this project, larger more expensive works would be required in the near future.

The project has an ambitious timeline and we would like to thank Tendring District Council for allowing us to meet this by permitting the work to take place from early mornings to late evenings, and the local community for their understanding whilst the work takes place.

How the work will progress

During the first weeks, rock will be delivered by road and kept in a temporary storage area on the upper section of beach.

Construction will be focused around low tides between the hours of 5:00am and 9:00pm. Dump trucks will distribute the rocks to where they are needed. Large excavators will then place them to form the rock armour.

The work will be carried out by Environment Agency contractor Van Oord, which is expected to complete the work by the end of the year, subject to weather conditions.

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[Joint restoration project on River Avon helps improve habitat diversity](#)

News story

A joint restoration project between the Ministry of Defence (MOD), Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) and Services Dry Fly Fishing Association (SDFFA) will improve habitats for riverine species on the banks of the River Avon.



Volunteers and staff in the process of installing woody material habitat structures. Copyright WWT 2020.

The project, which was partly funded by the MOD and designed by WWT's Water Team in consultation with the MOD and SDDFA, continues work undertaken by WWT in the area in 2016 to improve the condition of the River Avon Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The restoration work, which was completed last month by a team of Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) environmental specialists and WWT staff, took place at tank crossing Charlie which is located on the River Avon just north of Durrington near the village of Milston. The work involved installing permeable wooden structures within the river at several points to narrow the channel and speed up the flow of the river. This will reduce silt deposition and create areas of exposed gravel for fish to spawn.

Volunteers and staff using willow to build a woody habitat berm on the River Avon. Copyright WWT 2020.

Oliver Howells, DIO's Senior Ecologist, said:

The MOD has over 80,000 SSSI and it has a responsibility to manage these sites to maintain them in what is called Favourable condition. This project is a great example of how we have worked with one of our key partners to achieve that.

The WWT Water Team are highly skilled and well equipped to carry out this work. Thanks to their ongoing hard work, and the contribution from a team of DIO volunteers, we have been able to improve this stretch of the river, which is widely known as one of the best chalk streams in the UK. It was also a fantastic opportunity for some of DIO's environmental specialists to get their hands dirty and better understand the ecology of the river and the pressures affecting it.

In total 6 large wooden structures were installed into the channel. The wood was sourced on site by coppicing and pollarding trees along the bank and cutting back overhanging vegetation. This has the additional benefit of allowing more light to get down to the river and improving access for anglers.

Alice Baker, WWT's Water Team Manager said:

This project contributes to over 20 years of ongoing work by WWT to restore and protect the River Avon. Thanks to the support of the MOD we were able to enhance this 400m stretch of river, connecting previously restored reaches upstream and downstream of the crossing.

A huge thank you to the DIO volunteers for their hard work; the woody structures we built will add to the flow and habitat diversity of the river, providing marginal habitat for species such as water vole and kingfisher and cover for small and juvenile fish."

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