

# Crayfish Plague confirmed on the River Leven at Crathorne

Press release

The Environment Agency has confirmed this case after 40 crayfish were found dead Middlesbrough.



White-clawed crayfish

Image credit: photo credit – Sound Ideas/EA

The Environment Agency has confirmed a case of crayfish plague in the River Leven at Crathorne, near Middlesbrough.

Ecology officers took samples from the river earlier this month after 40 native white-clawed crayfish were found dead along a 700-metre stretch of the watercourse.

Steps are now being taken to prevent the spread of the disease, and the Environment Agency is appealing for help from the public.

Alice Fitch, Environment Agency, Team Leader for Biodiversity and Geomorphology, said:

After receiving the sample test results back from the laboratory, we can confirm that the ecological incident on the River Leven is a case of Crayfish Plague.

We have notified our partners in the area whose associates are regular recreational users of the River Leven. We are keen to know whether the native white clawed crayfish population in the River Leven, which was previously unrecorded, has survived this plague outbreak. If we find that this population remains, we intend to set

up a programme to monitor it over the coming years.

“To help limit the spread of this disease we are asking all river users to please stay out of the River Leven for the remainder of August. This is because plague spores can stay in the water, and on damp footwear and equipment, for up to 28 days. If people, dogs and equipment do enter the water, or spend time around the banksides, please make sure you are extra rigorous with your cleaning as the spores spread easily to other waterbodies through muddy footwear, fishing gear and recreational equipment like canoes.”

This disease is fatal amongst the rare, native white-clawed crayfish population that live and breed in North East waters. It is carried by the invasive American signal crayfish and it is likely that these fungal spores have been transferred from another river or catchment which contains a population of American Signal crayfish.

The Environment Agency would always urge people to ‘Check – Clean – Dry’ their footwear and equipment after spending time in and around watercourses. Anything that has contact with the water and riverbank needs to be cleaned thoroughly after use with warm water and environmentally friendly detergent. Then fully dried for 48 hours to make sure all parasites are killed.

The Crayfish Plague is only harmful to our native white-clawed crayfish and can’t be transmitted to humans or other animals.

If you ever need to report anything to the Environment Agency please use our incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

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## **FOI requests received by the VMD between 1 January to 30 June 2020**

News story

Details of 24 FOI requests received by the VMD in the first six months of 2020



The VMD received the following FOI requests in the first six months of 2020. Of the 24 requests:

- 4 were requests related to our information and communications technology (ICT) arrangements
- 13 sought information about certain veterinary medicinal products
- 2 were requests for information about Pharmacovigilance
- 1 sought information relating to our Finance Team
- 2 sought information relating to the work of our Enforcement Team
- 2 sought information relating to general work

If you would like to see any of these requests and our replies please email [postmaster@vmd.gov.uk](mailto:postmaster@vmd.gov.uk) citing the ATI reference number below.

### **Requests about our information and communications technology (ICT) arrangements**

<b>ATI reference number</b>	<b>Subject</b>
ATI0638	Information on spam/malicious emails
ATI0640	Information on IT solutions
ATI0648	Information on Telephone and network
ATI0650	Information on IT solutions

### **Requests for information about certain veterinary medicinal products**

<b>ATI reference number</b>	<b>Subject</b>
ATI0642	Information in the 2018 and 2017 quarterly reports and Aquamid
ATI0645	Information on Imidacloprid since 2014
ATI0646	Information on applications for marketing authorisation since January 1st 2020 for a product containing Imidacloprid
ATI0649	Details of all SICs issued since 01/07/2019 to date for any product imported to the UK containing the active substance of Bronopol
ATI0651	Detail of SICs applied for, successful or unsuccessful for the active substance Bronopol

<b>ATI reference number</b>	<b>Subject</b>
ATI0652	Detail on what amprolium in feed products are coming into the UK on SICs
ATI0653	Detail on how many SICs have been issued for the months of Jan, Feb, March and April 2020 for lactating cow intramammary tubes?
ATI0655	Request for information on Imidacloprid
ATI0657	Details on a list of VMPs which were authorised for food producing species that was produced by the VMD
ATI0658	Details on any proposed, in progress and completed field trials of Imidacloprid (Ectosan/BMK08) by the salmon farming industry in Scotland since 2017
ATI0659	Detail of SICs issued that listed an intramammary tube product from May 2020 to date
ATI0661	Request for copies of the SIC applications for the active substance Bronopol with all individual and company identifying data redacted
ATI0662	Request for information on Imidacloprid

### **Requests for Pharmacovigilance information**

<b>ATI reference number</b>	<b>Subject</b>
ATI0643	Detail of an adverse event in dogs vaccinated with a live CAV2 strain
ATI0644	Information on number, nature and incidence rate of a number of adverse reactions concerning ketoconazole

### **Requests for information relating to the work of our Finance Team**

<b>ATI reference number</b>	<b>Subject</b>
ATI0656	Data on the performance of the VMD against its prompt payment targets for the years 2015-2020

### **Requests for information relating to the work of our Residues Team**

<b>ATI reference number</b>	<b>Subject</b>
ATI0639	Information on PCBs found and information held on the origins of the farmed salmon
ATI0654	Detail on studies of local residue depletion of Kelaprofen

### **Requests for information relating to General Work**

<b>ATI reference number</b>	<b>Subject</b>
ATI0641	Information on catering facilities
ATI0647	Information on the VMD FOI Team

## [NHS nurse numbers continue rising with 13,840 more than last year](#)

The number of nurses in the NHS in England increased by 13,840 compared to last year, and the number of doctors has risen by 9,306, figures published today up until the end of May show.

All professionally qualified clinical staff, doctors, paramedics and support to clinical staff are now at record levels.

Responding to today's NHS workforce statistics, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said:

It is fantastic to see we have record numbers of staff working in our NHS, and as set out last month in the NHS People Plan, we must strive to make the NHS the best possible place to work for all. This will help us retain more of our hardworking staff and ensure the NHS can continue to protect us, as we protected it throughout the peak of this pandemic.

With the latest UCAS figures already showing a 14% rise in people accepting places on nursing courses in England, we are well on our way to delivering 50,000 more nurses by the end of this Parliament.

We have protected the NHS, and we are investing record sums into the NHS, hiring more doctors and nurses so that the NHS is always there for you and your family.

Following A Level results last week, the latest UCAS statistics revealed a 14% rise in acceptances for nursing and midwifery courses in England, with many more expected during clearing.

Last month the NHS People Plan set out how the NHS will put staff wellbeing at its heart with a new recruitment, retention and support package. It sets out practical support for wellbeing, such as:

- safe spaces to rest and recuperate
- wellbeing guardians
- support to keep staff physically safe and healthy

The figures for May include some former healthcare professionals who bravely volunteered to return to the frontline during the pandemic. May figures also show that 592 returners were identified, of which there are 102 doctors and 157 nurses and health visitors. Not all returners are reflected in the monthly workforce stats as they could have been employed on fixed term, honorary or bank contracts, or via NHS Professionals.

Today NHS Digital has published its [monthly NHS workforce data for May 2020](#)

Over the last year (May 2019 to May 2020) the number of nurses has gone up by 13,840, from 281,781 to 295,620.

Over the last year (May 2019 to 2020) the number of doctors has gone up by 9,306, from 111,950 to 121,256.

Student nurses do not have full registration with the NMC, and so are counted as 'support to clinical staff'. They are not included in the 'nurses' count. Medical students are on the same standing as Foundation 1 doctors, and so are counted as 'doctors' in the statistics.

NHS Professionals is an organisation in the United Kingdom that supplies temporary staff to the National Health Service.

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## [DIO completes state-of-the-art gym for Royal Navy](#)

The building was officially handed over to the Royal Navy this week. All parties have collaboratively worked to maintain momentum on the project and deliver this essential training facility for the Ministry of Defence (MOD). The project adapted working practices to ensure health and safety of all staff following new government and construction industry guidelines related to COVID-19.

The £9-million facility is scaled for the occupants of the college of 800 people, including cadets and BRNC staff, and will support the college to deliver 21st century physical training to modern Navy standards.

A multi-purpose main hall and three versatile activity spaces will allow cadets to undertake essential military fitness training and a wide range of other sports.

Britannia Royal Naval College's newly completed physical training centre, MOD Crown copyright, 2020.

DIO worked closely with Navy and DIO's Consultants Mott MacDonald to develop

the design into a fit for purpose facility in line with the agreed requirements while taking into consideration the College Navy Physical Training Instructor (PTI) staffing levels, the site constraints and through life building and maintenance costs.

The agreed location and design also required DIO and its consultants to undertake extensive consultation with numerous stakeholders including the Local Planning Authority, Historic England and Natural England over a number of years.

Of particular importance was ensuring that the building did not impact any of the local indigenous wildlife while still meeting all Royal Navy training requirements.

Close attention was paid to material choices to seamlessly blend the structure into its agreed location while maintaining consideration for both the historic significance of BRNC and the wider community in Dartmouth.

The design also considered emissions and BRNC's carbon footprint whilst improving the building's resilience to future climate change. This included incorporation of both solar thermal heating to reduce gas demand on the hot water supply and photovoltaic panels to reduce use of electricity. Wind catchers on the roof will help to naturally ventilate the main sports hall which is a greener alternative to air conditioning.

Simon Jones, DIO Senior Project Manager, said:

DIO has been proud to deliver this important facility for the Royal Navy.

We used our expertise throughout DIO along with our partners Kier and Mott Macdonald to overcome several pre- and post-construction challenges to see it completed is incredibly rewarding.

I am very proud how all parties pulled together to complete their respective tasks for this Defence project especially in these unprecedented times.

This modern and fit for purpose gym will ensure that cadets, staff and others will be able to access the training facilities they need for many years to come.

Doug Lloyd, operations director at Kier Regional Building in Western and Wales, states:

The completion of the new physical training centre at Britannia Royal Naval College builds on our successful delivery of infrastructure for the DIO on projects across the UK. We are delighted to have completed and handed over this first-class facility.

Our highly skilled teams have worked compassionately within the Royal Navy's grounds and the building has a number of features to help offset the MOD's carbon emissions. Throughout the duration of this project, we have also worked with our local supply chain and provided job and training opportunities as we look to leave lasting legacies in areas in which we build.

## Further information

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# [Privy Council appointment: 20 August 2020](#)

Press release

The Honourable Lord Woolman and The Honourable Lord Pentland are to be sworn of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.



The Queen has been pleased to approve that The Honourable Lord Woolman and The Honourable Lord Pentland be sworn of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

This follows the recent appointment of Lord Woolman and Lord Pentland as Members of the Inner House of the Court of Session.

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